**Readout of meetings between U.S. and Colombian officials**
03/17/2011

As Deputy United States Trade Representative Miriam Sapiro announced this morning in testimony before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, officials from USTR, the White House, and the State and Labor Departments met today with a high-level Colombian delegation led by Presidential Advisor Catalina Crane to discuss identified issues of concern related to the Colombia FTA. These issues include the protection of internationally recognized labor rights, prevention of violence against labor leaders, and the prosecution of the perpetrators of such violence. These meetings will continue tomorrow.

**APEC Launches 2011 Efforts Toward Creating a Seamless Regional Economy in the Asia-Pacific Region**
03/13/2011

Washington, D.C.- Today senior officials from the 21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum concluded their first meeting during the 2011 U.S. APEC host year. At this meeting in Washington, they made progress toward building a seamless regional economy in the Asia-Pacific by discussing practical and concrete ways to strengthen regional economic integration and expand trade, promote green growth, and advance regulatory cooperation and convergence.

Officials addressed next generation trade and investment issues, including improving supply chain performance and innovation and trade in technology. They also agreed to identify and address the most onerous barriers faced by small- and medium-sized businesses trading in
With the Israeli Minister of Communications, Moshe Kahlon.

- Ambassador Siddiqui met with Board Members from the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

- Ambassador Siddiqui participated in the Doha Development Agenda discussions in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Ambassador Marantis met with the Indian Secretary of Commerce, Rahul Khullar, to discuss bilateral trade.

- Ambassador Sapiro testified on the Colombia trade agreement before the Trade Subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

- Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for China Affairs Claire Reade met with Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland, California.

- Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative for Investment Jonathan Kallmer and Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative for Korea Bryant Trick spoke to the Washington Senate Legislative Committee on Economic Development, Trade & Innovation via video conference regarding the U.S.-Korea trade agreement.

- Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for China Affairs Claire Reade met with Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland, California.

The region.

To promote green economic growth, APEC members discussed how best to address non-tariff measures that affect trade in environmental goods, streamline import procedures for advanced technology demonstration automobiles, facilitate trade in remanufactured products, and combat trade in illegal logging.

To advance regulatory cooperation and convergence, the senior officials supported U.S. proposals to work to strengthen the implementation of good regulatory practices and improve the effectiveness of APEC's regulatory cooperation activities. APEC economies also agreed to address issues that have the potential to act as barriers to trade in emerging green technologies, including smart grid technology.

We will look to further advance all these issues during the next set of APEC Senior Officials meetings, which will lead up to the APEC 2011 Trade Ministers Meeting, in May in Big Sky, Montana, hosted by U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

**BACKGROUND**

APEC's core agenda is to strengthen regional economic integration by addressing barriers to trade and investment. The 21 APEC member economies account for more than half of the global economy and 44 percent of world trade. Seven of the United States' top fifteen trade partners are members of APEC.

The Senior Officials Meeting was chaired by Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman. U.S. Senior Official for APEC Kurt Tong and Assistant U.S Trade Representative Wendy Cutler led the U.S. delegation. Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis gave opening remarks at an APEC conference on good regulatory practices on February 28 and welcomed APEC officials to Washington on March 9.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Small Business Administration Administrator Karen
Representative for Labor Lewis Karesh met with liaisons from the Labor Advisory Committee (LAC)

- Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Environment and Natural Resources Mark Linscott met with liaisons from the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee (TEPAC)

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The USTR Archives can be found on the bottom margin of our website.

Please send us your real trade stories at Share Your Stories or submit questions to Ambassador Kirk at Ask the Ambassador.

Mills, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the office of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu invite you to attend

**New Markets, New Jobs: The National Export Initiative Small Business Tour**

*Monday, April 11, 2011*

*Hosted by the World Trade Center of New Orleans and Tulane University’s Goldring Institute of International Business*

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, Small Business Administration Administrator Karen Mills, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, and representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the office of U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu invite you to attend *New Markets, New Jobs*, a conference designed to help connect small and medium sized businesses with the resources they need to sell more of what they make in markets overseas.

The National Export Initiative Small Business Tour is designed to help achieve the United States’ goal of doubling exports in five years to support the creation of several million American jobs.

America's small and medium sized businesses still face many hurdles in getting their products to new markets: the lack of readily available information about exporting and market research; challenges in accessing export financing; and strong competition from foreign companies and governments.

_New Markets, New Jobs_ will address those challenges, and we’re excited to make the third stop of the tour in New Orleans!

Conference attendees will benefit from:

- Trade resource panels on key export topics,
including the spectrum of federal resources that can help businesses begin exporting or expand their exports.

- Materials and resources, including Regional Commercial Officers from the Caribbean, Central America and Brazil, to guide companies in the process of selling their products to consumers all over the world;

- Lessons learned from area businesses who have succeeded in utilizing federal resources to expand into new markets and grow their businesses; and

- Remarks from senior federal government officials and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu

**WHEN:**
Monday, April 11, 2011

**WHERE:**
Tulane University Lavin-Bernick Student Center
6823 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

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**USTR.gov Headlines**

**Seizing Opportunities to Support American Jobs, American Values in Trade**
03/18/2011

Ambassador Kirk wrote a guest blog post on WhiteHouse.gov earlier today. Check it out below.

"Seizing Opportunities to Support American Jobs, American Values in Trade"
President Obama has set an ambitious goal of doubling U.S. exports by 2015, supporting at least two million additional American jobs. As the President departs for Latin America to promote U.S. exports and U.S. jobs, we at the Office of the United States Trade Representative are continuing to work on three pending free trade agreements - with Korea, Panama, and Colombia - that can support these National Export Initiative goals.

More

**Watch Ambassador Miriam Sapiro’s Testimony before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade**
03/17/2011

Today Ambassador Miriam Sapiro is testifying before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. You can find a link to the live feed of the hearing on the Committee's website here starting at 10:00 a.m. EST.

DAUSTR for Korea Affairs Bryant Trick Talks Trade and Education with Wisconsin Student Dani Kaiser

03/15/2011

Last week, Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative for Korea Affairs Bryant Trick sat down with Dani Kaiser, a student from Parker High School of Janesville, Wisconsin. Dani was in Washington, D.C. as a 2011 Washington Seminar scholar for the program's 39th Annual Field Study. The program is sponsored by local hometown supporters, including the School District of Janesville and the Janesville Education Association, and directed by the Advanced Placement Government teacher, Joe Van Rooy. During the meeting, Dani discussed with Bryant her interest in the U.S.-Korea trade agreement and the U.S. strategic relationship with Korea.