



Newsletter December 2011

Founded in 2001, the New Zealand United States Council is committed to fostering and developing a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between New Zealand and the United States. The Council is an advocate for the expansion of trade and economic links between the two and a strong supporter of trade negotiations between the two in the context of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP).



President Obama with Boeing CEO James McNerney at the Honolulu APEC CEO Summit

CHIEF TPP NEGOTIATOR MARK SINCLAIR BRIEFS COUNCIL AGM

New Zealand's Chief Negotiator for TPP, Mark Sinclair, was on hand for the AGM of the NZUS Council in Auckland on 21 November to update members on recent developments. The AGM passed a resolution recording its thanks to Mark and his colleagues in New Zealand's negotiating team for all their efforts and agreed also to convey congratulations to Trade Minister Groser.

TPP Leaders have committed to an ambitious schedule to complete the negotiations in 2012. The negotiating process resumed in Kuala Lumpur in the week of 5 December. Three further rounds are likely to be held in the first six months of next year, at two monthly intervals, beginning in March and ending in July. This will allow for a report on progress to be presented to a meeting of TPP Ministers to be held on the margins of the APEC Trade Ministers' meeting in Kazan, Russia in early June. The overall aim is to complete the negotiation by the time TPP Leaders meet again at the APEC Summit in Vladivostok at the earlier than usual time of 7-8 September. This is an ambitious timetable but one which now has considerable political commitment behind it.

The NZ US Council continues to implement its "Time is Now" strategy to support the TPP negotiations through the coordination of business support for Government efforts. In Honolulu the Council joined other Asia Pacific business organizations in calling for negotiations to be concluded in 2012 and outlining expectations for the broad outlines.

The NZ US Council plans to hold a major conference on TPP in Auckland early May 2012 - watch for details.

COUNCIL WELCOMES BROAD OUTLINES OF TPP

APEC in Honolulu was the setting for the release of the broad outlines of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), a future free trade agreement to link nine economies¹ including New Zealand and the United States. "After two years' hard work TPP is set to deliver a ground-breaking agreement which can serve as a blueprint or pathway to a broader Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP). In the process TPP will deliver a freer and fairer trade and investment relationship between New Zealand and the United States" said NZ US Council Executive Director, Stephen Jacobi who was in Honolulu with a delegation of business leaders attending the APEC CEO Summit.

The broad outlines² reaffirm the TPP partners' commitment to key principles such as comprehensiveness, high quality and ambition; confirm the goal of elimination of tariffs on all products in a single market access schedule; outline progress made in each area under negotiation including

in relation to so-called "next generation" issues such as regulatory coherence, business facilitation, SME issues and development; and set a timetable for conclusion of negotiations in 2012. Three other economies - Japan, Mexico and Canada - announced their willingness to join the nine in ongoing negotiations.

The NZ US Council had been pursuing the goal of a free trade agreement with the United States for the last decade. "TPP will mark a major turning point in New Zealand's relationship with the United States" said Mr Jacobi. "A successful TPP would provide tangible benefits for New Zealand business by eliminating tariffs and border restrictions, optimizing supply chains by reducing business costs and speeding up the flow of goods, services and investment, providing more security for business as well as opening up new business opportunities. TPP remains a work in progress but is a prize well worth waiting for".

¹ TPP participants are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Viet Nam.

² www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/all/files/TPP_broad_outlines%20.pdf



John Mullen at Partnership Forum

FAREWELL JOHN MULLEN, WELCOME BILL MARONI

US NZ Council President John Mullen ONZM attended the Council AGM to say farewell and introduce his successor Bill Maroni. John is stepping down from the Council at the end of this year after seven years as President. In thanking John, Council Chairman Rt Hon James Bolger expressed his deep appreciation for John's leadership and his significant contribution to the NZ/US relationship. John played a key role in the instigation of the Partnership Forum and has become a good friend to many in New Zealand. John hands over to former USTR official and senior government relations executive Bill Maroni who made his first visit to New Zealand.



Gabrielle Rush welcomes guests at Partnership Forum dinner

APPRECIATION TO GABRIELLE RUSH

The Council's Associate Director Gabrielle Rush is moving on in the new year to focus on other activities. Executive Director Stephen Jacobi paid tribute to Gabrielle's work at the Council, thanking her for her dedication, commitment and expertise. A function to farewell Gabrielle will be held in the new year.



Delegates to the Partnership Forum

NZUS COUNCIL OFFICE HOLDERS

The following Board members were elected at the AGM:

Rt Hon James Bolger ONZ, Chairman
 Malcolm Bailey, Board member, Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd
 Michael Barnett, Chief Executive, Auckland Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Scott Carr, General Manager, New Zealand and the Pacific, Air New Zealand
 Scott Champion, Chief Executive, Beef + Lamb New Zealand
 Fiona Cooper Clarke, Principal, Cooper Clarke Consulting
 Bill Falconer, Chairman, Meat Industry Association
 Tim Green, Group General Manager, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
 Mike Hearn, Executive Director, American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand
 Murray Jack, Chief Executive, Deloitte
 David McLean, Chief Executive, Westpac Institutional Bank
 Nigel Moore, Director, Americas Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The following serve as members of the Advisory Board:

Helen Anderson, Chairperson, Fulbright NZ
 Rt Hon Sir William Birch, former Minister of Finance
 Harvey Brookes, Manager, International Relations, Auckland City Council
 Lucy Coghill, Future Partners Forum
 Leanne Cheesman, Manager, NZ & Pacific Islands, United Airlines
 Erica Crawford, Managing Director, Tentpole Holdings Ltd
 Robert Falvey, Partner, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
 Charles Finny, Consultant, Saunders Unsworth
 Mark Fitz-Gerald, Head of Wealth, Westpac
 Philip Gregan, Chief Executive, NZ Winegrowers
 Sir Graeme Harrison, Chairman, Anzco Foods Ltd
 Brian Lynch, Director, NZ Institute of International Affairs
 Phil O'Reilly, Chief Executive, Business NZ and Export NZ
 Rick Osborne, Group General Manager, External Relations, Fonterra Co-operative Group
 Fran O'Sullivan, Columnist
 Suzanne Snively, Managing Director, More Media Enterprises Ltd
 Hon Jim Sutton, Chairman, Landcorp, former Trade Minister
 Stephen Titter, President, American Chamber of Commerce
 Simon Tucker, General Manager, Policy, Dairy NZ
 John Wood QSO, former New Zealand Ambassador to Washington
 Shay Wright, Future Partners Forum

NEW MEMBERS

The NZ US Council welcomes the following new partners:

- Gallagher Group
- Tait Radio Communications

ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman's annual report is available on the Council website

MAILING LIST

Sign up to the mailing list at www.nzuscouncil.com to receive quarterly updates and reports from the Council.