APEC Chemical Dialogue Strengthens Trade through Cooperation
Premier Forum Brings Together Industry and Government to Prevent Barriers to Trade

PUERTO VARAS, CHILE (August 22, 2019) – The top Asia-Pacific forum for the chemical industry – the world’s fifth largest manufacturing sector – is strengthening cooperation on regulatory affairs, in order to facilitate trade, create more jobs, and promote sustainable development.

“The chemical industry is central to many sectors of our economies, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region,” said Kent Shigetomi, Co-Chair of the APEC Chemical Dialogue, which is spearheading efforts to improve regulatory cooperation. “It is critical that government and industry cooperate with one another on key trade and regulatory policy issues, and the APEC Chemical Dialogue is at the heart of this cooperation.”

This year’s 22nd APEC Chemical Dialogue is convening, at the 3rd APEC Senior Officials’ Meetings in Puerto Varas, Chile, key stakeholders from industry to government and environment experts. Together they are stepping up efforts to promote high standards of protection for human health, safety, and the environment, and to prevent barriers to trade.

A global juggernaut that contributed in 2017 USD 5.7 trillion in global GDP – equivalent to seven percent of the world’s total – the chemical industry is particularly critical in the Asia-Pacific region, where it supports 83 million jobs, according to the American Chemistry Council.

Over two-thirds of APEC chemical trade is intra-regional, with reported exports valued at USD 2.9 trillion and reported imports valued at USD 3 trillion from 2011 to 2015.

“Chemistry supports innovative products and technologies that drive the global economy and help people live longer and healthier lives,” said Ed Brzytwa, Director of International Trade of the American Chemistry Council. “Prioritizing regulatory cooperation, adopting good regulatory practices, and aligning customs practices for chemicals will foster even more job creation and positive impacts on sustainable development.”

As Latin America faces rapid growth in the production and trade of chemicals, the dialogue is focusing this year on regulatory cooperation in this important region with experts from the region sharing lessons learned.

-- more --
“Increasing regulatory cooperation, fostering innovation, and preventing barriers to trade can expand APEC’s engagement with global markets. Continued engagement will pay dividends for APEC member economies for years to come,” said Dr. Rebecca Sta Maria, Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat. “Let’s work together to create ambitious outcomes in APEC that will deliver more shared prosperity across the region.”

To learn more, download this fact sheet.

# # #

http://www.americanchemistry.com

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people’s lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $553 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for ten percent of all U.S. goods exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure.