



## News Release

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### INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES COME TOGETHER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION FACES

**WASHINGTON (December 10, 2020)** – The American Chemistry Council recently participated in the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation’s (APEC) virtual [Chemical Dialogue \(CD\)](#) to help foster greater regulatory cooperation, prevent or eliminate barriers to trade, and highlight the critical role the chemical industry is playing in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 25<sup>th</sup> CD meeting in November brought together more than 100 stakeholders in industry and government who share a commitment to addressing challenging topics, such as marine debris, and finding ways to further harmonize regulatory cooperation throughout the world. In November, the CD also endorsed a [new strategic framework](#) that will guide its work through 2022, incorporating the [APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040’s](#) objectives and a continued commitment by industry to health and safety.

“For the U.S. chemical industry, the APEC CD is the premier forum for discussing chemical trade and regulatory issues in the dynamic Asia-Pacific region, which is the world’s fifth largest manufacturing sector. This first virtual meeting set the stage for 2021 collaboration focusing on pandemic response, recovery, resiliency, and sustainability,” ACC’s Director of International Trade Ed Brzytwa said.

The CD also addressed the chemical industry’s efforts to mitigate the effects of the ongoing global pandemic and ways that it can help APEC economies recover through job creation and sustainable development. The ability of chemical manufacturers to produce and transport the chemicals necessary for the production of essential medical products, such as ventilators, personal protective equipment, chemical biocides and disinfectants and much more, is dependent on trade and regulatory cooperation between nations.

“Whether it’s cleaning and disinfecting products to eradicate the virus from surfaces and medical equipment, using masks to prevent the aerosolization and spread of the virus, using syringes for the vaccine, or advancing new chemical innovations to provide insulation needed to keep the vaccine under tightly controlled temperatures, chemicals are a critical part of many essential goods. In fact, 96% of all manufactured goods rely on chemistry” said Sergio Barrientos, industry co-chair of the APEC Chemical Dialogue.



CD participants, which included government authorities, industry representatives, and other stakeholders, discussed ways to avoid and eliminate trade barriers that stand in the way of realizing higher standards of protection for human health and safety and the creation of jobs. Many nations and economies have been devastated by the far-reaching effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the creation of such jobs will be critical to recovery. The Asia-Pacific region's ability to recover quickly also depends on governments and industry finding innovative ways to work together to advance solutions for sustainable economic, environmental and social development collaboration that is a foundation of the strategic framework recently adopted by the CD.

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*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 \$565 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.*

