The APEC Anti-corruption Workshop co-sponsored by the People’s Republic of China and the United States of America was successfully held in Shanghai on April 24-25, 2006. This workshop is an important follow-up to the commitment expressed by President Hu Jintao and President George W. Bush to increase cooperation in the fight against corruption, along with the political will manifested by APEC leaders to strengthen cooperation among APEC economies on these important governance and integrity issues.

One hundred and fourteen anti-corruption officials and experts from the APEC economies, relevant international organizations and partners attended this workshop. Focusing on the theme of “Denial of Safe Haven: Asset Recovery and Extradition,” the participants had fruitful in-depth exchanges and discussions to help fulfill the aspirations of APEC leaders to take strong enforcement actions to deny safe haven to corrupt individuals and prevent them from enjoying the proceeds of their illicit activities. Participants also exchanged information on anti-bribery measures, both on the international level and within APEC economies, and agreed to work jointly to combat bribery in international business transactions. Participants also underscored the important links between corruption and anti-money laundering. The participants spoke highly of this workshop which played an important role in promoting mutual understanding and trust and in creating opportunities for further exchanges and cooperation among the APEC economies. We note several excellent concrete proposals and ideas for strengthening international cooperation.

The participants believe that along with the adverse impact to the development of economic growth, corruption helps fuel organized transnational crime and terrorism. Corruption also weakens critical enforcement systems and key integrity institutions. The challenges related to corrupt officials seeking safe haven in other jurisdictions along with their illicitly-acquired assets remain important priorities within APEC. Strengthening international anti-corruption cooperation is critical to effectively deny safe haven, recover assets and extradite alleged criminals. Prosecuting corruption and transnational bribery and financial crimes, deterring and preventing corruption help create a strong international governance environment to promote greater stability security, prosperity and economic development. The participants expressed their intention to pursue anti-corruption cooperation under the APEC framework by strengthening exchanges and learning from each other on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, respecting differences and emphasizing results.
The participants are satisfied with the outcome of this workshop and appreciate the joint efforts of China and the United States, especially the leadership of the Chinese Ministry of Supervision and the Supervision Commission of Shanghai Municipal Government in organizing this important event.

Both China and the United States are pleased with this joint initiative and ready to further anti-corruption collaboration within the APEC framework by fighting and prosecuting corruption, creating an honest and clean environment and promoting enhanced economic and social development in the Asia Pacific region. China and the United States will provide a full report incorporating the discussion and recommendations from all six sessions to the APEC ACT Task Force and senior officials at SOM III in September 2006, including the proposal by Peru to host a follow-up gathering in 2007 of senior experts from APEC and OAS economies in partnership with other relevant international organizations on the “Denial of Safe Haven: Asset Recovery, Extradition, Anti-bribery and Anti-money Laundering.”