APEC Pathfinder II Dialogue on Combating Corruption and Illicit Trade: Partnerships for Sustainable Security

Eric W. Kneedler, Political Counselor, U.S. Embassy in Manila will provide opening keynote remarks at the APEC Pathfinder II Dialogue on Fighting Corruption and Illicit Trade in Cebu, Philippines, August 26, 2015. Pathfinder II will bring together senior officials from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) to discuss ways of enhancing international cooperation on corruption and illicit trade including measures for greater transparency, good governance, and stronger integrity to promote economic growth, trade, and investment. Ombudsman of the Philippines, Judge Conchita Caprio-Morales, 2015 Chair of the APEC Anticorruption and Transparency (ACT) Working Group, The Honorable Greg Hunt MP, Minister for the Environment, Australia, His Excellency Thinn Maung, Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Myanmar, and Under Secretary Asis Perez, Ministry of Agriculture, Philippines will also provide opening remarks. Participants will include over 100 anti-corruption investigators, law enforcement officials, and policymakers from across APEC, ASEAN, PIF economies, as well as representatives from international organizations, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

According to the World Economic Forum, illicit trade may account for an estimated 8-15 percent of global trade annually, and other estimates putting the economic harms of illicit trade in the developing world at higher rates. Over the past several years, APEC leaders have recognized that corruption fuels and facilitates illicit trade flows. The Pathfinder Dialogue II will focus on the links between corruption, money laundering and various types of illicit trade: trafficking in persons (TIP), wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, illegal fishing, and other environmental crimes.

*Environmental Crime* workshop segments will focus on good practices, strategies, and responses to corruption and environmental crime, including wildlife trafficking and illegal logging and fishing. Participants will explore proven strategies, such as financial investigation, multi-agency cooperation, multilateral coordination, and joint government-NGO efforts. Participants will also identify priorities for concrete actions to tackle corruption in environmental crime and help to safeguard our rainforests, endangered wildlife, oceans, and vital ecosystems.

*Human Trafficking and Slavery* workshop segments will explore good practices for combating corruption in human trafficking and review existing knowledge and available resources on the topic. The workshop will also focus on successful multilateral engagement between governments and intergovernmental organizations using anti-corruption...
strategies to investigate, prosecute, and prevent human trafficking, safeguard our children and human capital, and promote the empowerment of women across Asia-Pacific economies.

**OECD Roundtable on Corruption Related to Trafficking in Persons:** A related workshop will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2015 to further explore the role of corruption in human trafficking. Participants will identify good practices at national and regional levels in combating corruption related to TIP.

The Pathfinder II Dialogue is being organized by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the American Bar Association, in partnership with the Ombudsman’s Office of the Philippines and with support from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The event will be held under the auspices of the APEC Anti-Corruption & Transparency Working Group’s (ACT) vision to combat corruption and illicit trade in the Asia-Pacific region, with support from other key APEC sub-fora.

More information about Pathfinder Dialogue II can be found at: [http://www.2015pathfinderdialogue.com/about.html](http://www.2015pathfinderdialogue.com/about.html)