



For Immediate Release
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Fact Sheet: Working Together to Build More Hopeful Societies in the Asia-Pacific Region

America Must Maintain Its Presence In The Pacific: We Must Seize Our Common Opportunities, Confront Our Common Threats, And Help Our Partners Build More Hopeful Societies Throughout This Vital Part Of The World. America will remain engaged in Asia because our interests depend on the expansion of freedom and opportunity in this region. Our trade across the Pacific is greater than our trade across the Atlantic, our businesses see a bright future in Asia's thriving economies and rising middle class, and we see threats like terrorism, proliferation, and disease that have the potential to undermine our prosperity and put our future in doubt.

- **The United States Has Long Recognized That It Is In Our Interest To Help Expand Hope And Opportunity Throughout Asia, And Our Policies Have Reflected This Commitment For More Than Six Decades.** By opening our doors to Asian goods and maintaining a strong military presence in the region, America has helped contribute to the modern and confident Asia we see today: a region where people's incomes and opportunities are rising, where businesses compete in a global economy, and where citizens know that a world growing in trade is a world expanding in opportunity.

Building More Hopeful Societies Starts With Opening Up To The Opportunities Of A Global Trading System

Only An Ambitious Doha Agreement With Real Market Access Can Achieve The Economic Growth And Development Goals That The World Has Set. We look to nations across the Asia-Pacific region to help put these vital talks back on track.

To Help Build Momentum For More Open Global Trade, We Are Also Opening Up Markets With Individual Nations. We have negotiated free trade agreements with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) partners like Singapore and Australia, and we are negotiating similar agreements with Malaysia and South Korea. On the other side of the Pacific, we have successful free trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, and Chile, and we have concluded negotiations with Peru.

President Bush Believes The Idea Of A Free Trade Agreement For The Entire APEC Region Deserves Serious Consideration. The United States believes APEC is the premier economic forum in the region and has immense potential to expand free trade and opportunity across the Pacific. We want to help APEC become a stronger organization that serves as an engine for economic growth and opportunity throughout the region.

Building More Hopeful Societies Means Working Together To Confront Challenges Facing The Asia-Pacific Region

Together, We Must Unleash The Same Spirit Of Innovation And Enterprise That Sparked The Asian Economic Revolution To Spark A New Revolution In Energy Technology. As the economies of the Asia Pacific thrive and expand, one of our most pressing needs will be an affordable, reliable supply of energy. Four of the world's top five energy consumers are APEC members, and the region's need for energy will continue to rise.

- **Through The Asia-Pacific Partnership On Clean Development And Climate, We Are Working With Australia, China, India, Japan, And South Korea To Share Best Practices And Deploy New Energy Technologies.** These new technologies are helping us improve energy security and air quality and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Last month, the partnership announced nearly 100 new projects, ranging from clean coal to renewable energy to more efficient buildings.

- **Through The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, America Is Working With Other Leaders In Nuclear Energy – Like Russia, France, And Japan – To Help Developing Nations Use Civilian Nuclear Energy While Guarding Against Weapons Proliferation.**
- **Through The APEC Biofuels Task Force, We Are Working With Nations Across The Region To Search For New Ways To Replace Oil With Clean Fuels Made From Palm Oil, Sugar Cane, And Other Natural Products.**

We Are Working Together To Address The Threat Of Avian Flu. We have taken important steps to stop the spread of avian flu, and we are increasing cooperation to help ensure that if a pandemic ever does break out, we will be as prepared as possible. At the APEC summit, leaders will reaffirm their responsibilities to report new avian flu cases, contain the spread of animal outbreaks, and follow wise preparedness plans.

America Is Also Committed To Working With Its Asia-Pacific Partners In The Fight Against The Pandemic Of HIV/AIDS, With Particular Emphasis On Vietnam. Since 2004, the United States has provided more than \$138 million to help Vietnam combat this disease.

Our Asia-Pacific Partners Know That They Can Count On America When Disaster Strikes Suddenly. After the tsunami struck in 2004, we dispatched military assistance and humanitarian relief to save lives and help devastated communities rebuild.

Our Commitment Extends Far Beyond Responding To Disasters. We are helping countries like the Philippines and Indonesia provide their boys and girls with an education that prepares them to succeed in the global economy.

- **We Created The Millennium Challenge Account To Provide Financial Assistance To Developing Nations That Govern Justly, Invest In Their People, And Enforce The Rule Of Law.** We have signed a Millennium Challenge threshold agreement with the Philippines, we will soon begin discussions with Peru, and tomorrow, we will sign an agreement with Indonesia.

Building More Hopeful Societies Depends On A Foundation Of Security

The Greatest Danger In Our World Today Is That Terrorists Could Get Their Hands On Weapons Of Mass Destruction And Use Them To Blackmail Free Nations, Or Kill On An Unimaginable Scale. In the Asia-Pacific region, the most immediate threat of proliferation comes from North Korea. After North Korea's recent nuclear test, the UN Security Council passed a unanimous resolution that imposes sanctions on North Korea's regime, and America will work with our partners to enforce those sanctions. We will also continue working with Japan, China, South Korea, and Russia through the Six Party Talks.

- **Our Nations Are Speaking With One Voice: The Only Way For North Korea To Move Forward Is To Abandon Its Nuclear Weapons Programs And Rejoin The International Community.** North Korea recently took an encouraging step when it agreed to come back to the table and restart the Six Party talks. The United States wants these talks to be successful, and we will do our part. But ultimately the success of these talks depends on the regime in North Korea: Pyongyang must show it is serious by taking concrete steps to implement its agreement to give up its nuclear weapons and nuclear programs.

As We Work For A Korean Peninsula Free Of Nuclear Weapons, We Are Also Strengthening Defense Cooperation In The Asia-Pacific Region. Unlike Europe, where our security cooperation takes place through the NATO Alliance, America's security cooperation in Asia takes place largely through bilateral defense relationships. By building new defense relationships and strengthening existing alliances, we are ensuring that the forces of freedom and moderation in this region can defend themselves against the forces of terror and extremism.

- **America Also Welcomes The Growing Multilateral Security Cooperation In The Region.** Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia are coordinating patrols in the Strait of Malacca and working to combat terrorism, piracy, and human trafficking; and through the Proliferation Security Initiative, 80 countries are cooperating to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction and related material through the air, land, and sea.

In The Long Run, The Surest Path To Security Is The Expansion Of Freedom. The people of Asia have faith in the power of freedom, because they have seen freedom transform nations across their continent. Today, millions of Asians live in freedom that has unleashed the creative talents of people throughout Asia and helped prosperity sweep across the region.

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