



Paul D. Wolfowitz
Chairman of the Board

Vance D. Coffman
Vice Chairman

Senator Lisa A. Murkowski
Honorary Co-Chairman

Senator John D. Rockefeller IV
Honorary Co-Chairman

Rupert J. Hammond-Chambers
President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2008
Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A.

**THE US-TAIWAN BUSINESS COUNCIL CONGRATULATES TAIWAN ON
ITS ACCESSION TO THE WTO AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT
PROCUREMENT (GPA)**

The US-Taiwan Business Council today extends its congratulations to Taiwan on its accession to the WTO plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

This is an important milestone in Taiwan's continued engagement with the global economic community. Coming at a time when many countries are instead retreating from their commitment to the global trading system, Taiwan is showing leadership by example. It will join 40 other trading nations in setting open, transparent, and non-discriminatory rules for public procurement.

The news is excellent for American businesses, as accession offers new access to one of Asia's leading markets. Council President Rupert Hammond-Chambers noted that "the timing of Taiwan's accession to the GPA couldn't be more fortuitous, given the launch of President Ma's 12 iTaiwan initiative - covering myriad infrastructure investments with well in excess of US\$12 billion in spending. In addition, U.S. companies will now have broader access to Taiwan's regular government procurement projects, from investments in critical infrastructure to information technology (IT) opportunities."

For Taiwan, the accession to the GPA offers its suppliers and supply chain managers access to the U.S. government procurement market, totaling in excess of US\$300 billion annually. It also appears likely that the incoming Obama Administration will launch its economic policies with a robust stimulus package focused on infrastructure, presenting additional opportunities for leading Taiwan businesses.

Mr. Hammond-Chambers added "as governments around the world invest in technology to affect cost savings and greater efficiencies, Taiwan's current role as a leading global technology partner strongly positions it to take advantage of new IT procurement opportunities. In addition, Taiwan's ability to bring to market solutions at a competitive price will bring efficiencies to the other 40 GPA economies and will further expand Taiwan's role as a critical global economic partner."

Mr. Hammond-Chambers also noted that "the US-Taiwan Business Council strongly recommends that Taiwan's Legislative Yuan acts quickly to pass the necessary legislation to support this important and positive breakthrough in Taiwan's global economic position."

About the US-Taiwan Business Council:

The US-Taiwan Business Council (www.us-taiwan.org) is a membership-based non-profit association, founded in 1976 to foster trade and business relations between the United States and Taiwan. The Council provides its members with business intelligence, offers access to an extensive network of relationships, and serves as a vital and effective representative in dealing with business, trade, and investment matters.

Press Contact:

Lotta Danielsson-Murphy
LottaDM@us-taiwan.org

Tel: (703) 465-2930
Fax: (703) 465-2937

P
R
E
S
S
R
E
L
E
A
S
E