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## **AMCHAM Gains NGO Status With WTO Calls On Ministers To Loosen Reins on Free Trade**

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong has announced it has been officially recognised as a participating Non-Governmental Organisation attending the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting, in December of this year, and urges government ministers to work toward freeing both developed and developing countries from public sector constraints on trade. Some specific points the Chamber will advocate at the ministerial include arguments that:

- Market access is at the heart of the Doha negotiations. Lowering barriers will expand trade flows and generate the economic growth that comes with liberalization of trade in goods and services. This growth will benefit developed and developing countries.
- Agriculture is the engine that drives the negotiations and the issue where we need progress now if the larger negotiation is to succeed. The United States is seeking a broad-based result in the negotiations, including in areas such as non-agricultural market access and services.
- The key issue now in the agriculture negotiations is market access. The negotiations on the other two so-called "pillars" of the agriculture negotiations, export competition and domestic support, are in good negotiating shape. Significant progress still needs to be made on agricultural market access. To achieve that progress, the EU must come forward with an ambitious proposal.
- The United States made an ambitious proposal on agriculture, supported by Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. It is complemented, for developed countries, by the G-20 proposal, which would deliver lesser tariff cuts but still sets discussions on the path toward substantial market access improvement. These proposals have set high expectations for the negotiations, in line with the Doha mandate.

AMCHAM's team of delegates to the ministerial sessions include Lucille Barale, a former Chamber chairman in both Hong Kong and Beijing, and Peter Liu, a Chamber governor.

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### ***About AMCHAM***

AMCHAM Hong Kong, established in 1969, is a non-partisan, non-profit business organization that is committed to the principles of private enterprise, free trade, rule of law, ethical and responsible business practices, transparency and the free flow of information. AMCHAM is one of the largest American Chambers of Commerce outside of the United States, representing almost 2000 members.