

AmCham HR Committee Luncheon - Freeing International Labor Movement in Asia's Key Competitive Cha

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A year ago the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) commissioned a study by an MBA team from USC's Marshall School of Business to study the competitive challenges developing in the APEC region caused by chronic rigidities in the international movement of labor — challenges that are expected to get worse as populations age in key economies. The findings of the 11-strong study team, which were presented during the APEC meetings in Singapore a month ago, not only describe in detail the region's competitive challenge, but provide a possible roadmap for removing unneeded obstacles, eliminating corruption from the labor "supply chain", and simplifying complex and time-consuming procedures.

In the hope that leading business organizations in the APEC region might be able to capitalize on this research to galvanise the region's political leaders to give appropriate attention to this issue, a leading Hong Kong public policy group, the Hong Kong Forum, has funded two of the Marshall School study team to visit a number of key concerned economies in Asia to re-present their findings. Taipei will be the first stop on a journey that will also include Tokyo, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore.

About the Speakers

Mark Wilson spent four years in the financial services industry, trading fixed income securities for the founder of the mutual fund industry, MFS Investment Management, before taking up study at the Marshall School. A Mandarin speaker, Mark has worked the tourism sector in Western China and in a solar energy social enterprise in India.

Tiffany Sanberg, who has a strong interest in human capital issues and how they impact business competitiveness, graduated from the University of California with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Behavior. Prior to joining the Marshall School she conducted three academic research studies involving stress management, in addition to spending five years consulting for business executives.