

## **APEC CEO Summit Says Dwindling Talent Pool May Put Global Infrastructure at Risk**

Washington, DC—(Nov. 16, 2011) WTS International, the association for the advancement of women in the transportation industry, was among the invited guests at the annual APEC CEO summit last week. APEC (the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation) held its meeting of the world's companies at the helm of our global economy in Hawaii this year, but there was little in the way of luaus and leis, as several of the tightly held sessions presented and concluded the world's economy may suffer great consequences due to a shrinking pool of talent.

“President Obama, Hilary Clinton, and the CEOs of companies such as FedEx, Boeing, Caterpillar, and DHL were in attendance at the summit, and they all heard or aired the same concerns for the world's future infrastructure,” said Marcia Ferranto, WTS International's President and CEO. “The top-notch talent currently responsible for transportation systems across the globe is retiring, and the quantity of young talent coming up through the STEM educational and training paths (science, technology, engineering, and math) is dwindling.”

WTS International's invitation to attend the APEC summit was an appropriate step in creating solutions to the dilemma of the dwindling talent pool. With the primary goal of growing the female demographic in the transportation industry's professional leadership roles worldwide, the association is getting the attention it needs from the world economy's major players to help move WTS's strategic plan along. “WTS has 47 chapters in the US, Canada, and the UK, and is building presence now in Brazil, India, and Vienna,” says Ferranto. “Within each chapter we encourage the continuing education of women in professional roles in the transportation industry with training, the advancement of women through the ranks with mentorships and networking, and now, in partnership with the US Department of Transportation, we've set our program for young women aged 13 – 18 years in motion.”

The program Ferranto refers to, called *Transportation You*, is designed to encourage girls to focus studies in the STEM, disciplines, which are losing ground in popularity and at the core of concern at the APEC CEO summit last week. “With the cooperation of major sponsors for our programs and scholarships, WTS is poised to steer the current path of the world's future infrastructure back in the right direction,” added Ferranto.

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**WTS International and WTS Foundation**, headquartered in Washington, DC, has provided more than \$1,000,000 in scholarships to deserving women throughout the transportation industry, supporting the next generation of transportation professionals and advancing the principles of WTS. WTS is committed to *Advancing Women in Transportation* through expanding existing scholarship opportunities to women pursuing transportation related degrees, providing and promoting more educational opportunities and career development to advance women in transportation, and initiating, sponsoring and publishing research related to advancing women in transportation. More information can be found at [www.WTSInternational.org](http://www.WTSInternational.org)

**Transportation YOU** is a hands-on, interactive, mentoring program that offers young girls ages 13-18 an introduction to a wide variety of transportation careers. Through the program, WTS chapters work to make a difference in the lives of

young girls by offering programs and activities that will spark their interest in all modes of transportation and encourage them to take courses in math, science, and technology, which are the stepping stones to exciting careers that can change the face of the transportation industry. For more information, contact Marcia Ferranto at 202-955-5085

**APEC, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation,** is a 21-member association of economies from the Asia-Pacific region working together to advance regional economic integration and prosperity. Established in 1989, APEC has worked to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers across the Asia-Pacific region, facilitate business interactions between member nations, and improve training and education in international trade. More information about the APEC CEO summit can be found at <http://www.apec2011hawaii.com/>