



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 25, 2008
Contact: Katie Gotaas, 773-545-7600

U.S. Asia Center Participates on Panel Discussing Korea-U.S. FTA

Washington, DC – Angela An, Executive Director for the U.S. Asia Center, participated in a panel discussion on the implications and merits of the Korea-U.S. FTA on January 23. Hosted by Korean American Coalition-DC Chapter, the panel discussion took place at the Cannon House Office Building. Minister Counselor Han Dong-Man, from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, also participated on the panel.

On June 30, 2007, U.S. Trade Representative Susan C. Schwab and Korea's Trade Minister Kim Hyun-Chong signed the Korea - U.S. Free Trade Agreement, widely referred to as the KORUS FTA, marking the largest free trade agreement for the United States since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1992. The FTA is currently awaiting approval from both countries' legislatures.

"There have been renewed efforts following the New Year to obtain Congressional approval of the KORUS FTA," stated An. "The anticipated benefits of the FTA for both the United States and South Korea are substantial. It is important that Congress and the public be educated on the provisions and implications of the FTA in order to make an informed decision on its merits."

A more thorough look at the free trade agreement and its implications can be found in the USAC sponsored paper, *Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement: Cementing Economic and Political Relations*, which can be found on their website at www.usasiacenter.org.

###