

APEC Healthcare Plenary Session
John M. Andersen – Opening Remarks
September 6 at 8:45
Westin Hotel – Limatambo One & Two

- Good morning Minister Garcia and esteemed guests.
- It is an honor to be here today at the 2016 APEC Business Ethics for SME's Forum.
- I want to thank the Government of Peru for working closely with us this past year to organize this forum and to achieve something that has never been done before in the world – a surprise outcome of this year's forum that will be unveiled to you later this morning.
- The SME Working Group launched the SME Business Ethics initiative in Gifu in 2010 and it has become one of APEC's most successful endeavors.
- The success is not only based on the quality of our outcomes, notably the *KL Principles for the Medical Device Sector* and the *Mexico City Principles for the Biopharmaceutical Sector*, but more importantly the collaboration between the public and private sector and the support received on this initiative by all 21 APEC economies.
- As the current SME Working Group Chair, there is one thing I can tell you about the SME Working Group delegates, they are fearless in taking on difficult challenges and they are laser-focused on achieving outcomes.
- They are the ones that work closely with small and medium-sized companies in their local communities – the innovators and creators of new healthcare products and technology -- and work on behalf of governments to ensure that public trust is maintained through product integrity and safety.
- They are the guardians of this work in APEC with the main goal of ensuring the equitable treatment of healthcare companies in all APEC economies.
- To quickly recap the steps that brought us to Lima today, I'd like to quickly recall the origins of this work.

- We started enthusiastically, albeit a bit cautiously, in 2010 to gauge the interest of all APEC economies.
- After the conclusion of the first educational workshop in Gifu, it took less than an hour for Datuk Hafsah Hashim and the Malaysian team to tell Lynn “we’re in”.
- Thank you Malaysia and Dato’ Hafsah Hashim for starting the ethics wave across APEC.
- From that point forward in Gifu, APEC SME delegates locked arms and kept the ethics tidal wave moving forward.
- They instinctively knew, that through a collective action approach, that they could make a big difference in the way business is conducted in the healthcare sector.
- And they certainly made a difference!
- In just a few short years, there are over 19,000 companies -- of which more than 8,000 are SMEs -- now covered by a code of ethics where none previously existed.
- We have over 1000 partners across APEC economies and more than 125 ethics compliance mentors who proactively work to socialize codes within these partner organizations.
- Many of the mentors are here today and I would like all of you to stand up to receive the recognition that you richly deserve.
- Let’s give them a big round of applause!
- The forum today is the 3rd annual forum and we’re growing larger in number each year.

- In the not-to-distant future we'll have to hold the forum in a baseball or soccer stadium because it's become difficult to find a venue large enough to hold all of you.
- Through the generous contributions from healthcare companies and associations across APEC, along with the in-kind contributions from our partner economies, we have been able to hold first-class events every year.
- And, it also takes intellectual leadership to keep this work moving forward.
- I would like to personally thank Russell Williams and Crisoula Nikidis from Canada, Chris White and Nancy Travis from AdvaMed, and Neil Pratt from PhRMA for driving the ethics work forward.
- It also takes a core administrative staff to secure annual APEC funding, handle the event logistics, agendas and travel arrangements for the APEC-funded economies, and secure our panelists and high-level guest speakers.
- Thank you Andrew Blasi and Patricia Wu from C&M International and Lynn Costa and Daniel Miller on my own team.
- All of you have once again done a spectacular job.
- This year is special in a couple of ways.
- As noted earlier, a dynamic deliverable will be unveiled in a few more minutes, but we also are distributing for the first time, a document to SME Ministers and the public that captures how each economy is doing in our goal of harmonizing healthcare codes of ethics across all APEC economies by 2020.
- In the spirit of transparency and accountability, it's time we let everyone know where things stand.
- I'm willing to bet that this document will be the most highly read document by SME Ministers this year.

- As the SME Minister that will represent the United States on Friday at the SME Ministerial meeting, I look forward to highlighting your wonderful achievements and seeking endorsement of your outcomes.
- Thank you everyone for coming today, especially those that traveled the many hours from Asia.
- I'd now like to turn the microphone over to Dr. Patricia Garcia Funegra, Peru's Minister of Health, who will provide this morning's keynote remarks.