



Matthew J. Matthews

Deputy Assistant Secretary and Senior Official for APEC

BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Matthew J. Matthews, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, assumed his position as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands and concurrently as the Senior Official for APEC on June 16, 2015. Prior to that, he was the Foreign Policy Advisor to Admiral Locklear, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command from 2013 - 2015, and the Deputy Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong from 2010 to 2013.

Matt served as the Counselor for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2007-10) focusing on trade issues that set the stage for Malaysia's entry to the TPP negotiations, and at the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia (2004-07) where he focused on implementation of our bilateral FTA. Prior to that, while serving as the Chief of the Internal Unit in the Economic Section at the U.S. Embassy Beijing (2001-04), Matt led a team which worked extensively on Chinese macroeconomic and financial reform issues. As deputy chief of the Economic Office at the American Institute in Taiwan (1998-2001), he focused on expanding market access for US financial firms.

Matt's earlier postings included an assignment in Islamabad, Pakistan (1995-97) analyzing economic policy, a tour in the Department of State working on bilateral relations with Brazil (1993-95), and an assignment to AIT in Taipei as the Science and Technology officer (1989-1992). He also served as an Economic Officer in Beijing (1987-1989) and as a consular officer in Hong Kong (1987) after joining the Foreign Service in 1986. Matt speaks fluent Mandarin Chinese and has received five State superior honor awards as well as the CJCS Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

Matt grew up in Portland, Oregon. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon, attended the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Taipei, and earned a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.