



Waiver of \$500,000 Single Conference Limitation
Office of Management and Budget Memorandum
Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum
Tokyo, Japan, March 14-15, 2026

As Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer (performing the duties of the Director) of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (“USTDA”), I hereby waive the \$500,000 limitation on single conference expenses prescribed by the May 11, 2012 Office of Management and Budget Memorandum titled “Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations” (the “OMB Memorandum”), with respect to the inaugural Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum, which will take place in Tokyo, Japan on March 14-15, 2026 (“IPEM”). USTDA’s executive team approved the IPEM and its budget on December 6, 2025.

Co-hosted with the Government of Japan, the IPEM will highlight the importance of strategic partnerships in advancing energy security in the Indo-Pacific region, and will feature deal announcements that will advance U.S. interests and the export of American goods and services to the Indo-Pacific region. The IPEM will also include engagements with like-minded countries to improve market conditions for U.S. companies. The goal of the IPEM is to advance the U.S. government’s energy dominance agenda in the Indo-Pacific region, secure buy-in from regional partners on U.S. energy security priorities, and elevate commercial deals with the private sector. The IPEM will facilitate discussions on coordinated strategies for energy supply security, long-term procurement, and mutual support during times of disruption, as well as serve as a platform for commercial engagement, highlighting strategic opportunities in areas such as liquefied natural gas, critical mineral mining and processing, civil nuclear, geothermal, and grid infrastructure. USTDA will be responsible for managing the critical logistics of the event. Approximately 400 business executives, representatives from the U.S. government, and governments from throughout South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands are expected to attend.

The program will include keynote addresses by senior U.S., Japanese, and regional Indo-Pacific government officials, including U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, U.S. Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lee Zeldin, President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States John Jovanovic, CEO of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation Ben Black, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan Ryosei Akazawa, and relevant ministers from the Brunei, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and others. The program will include panel discussions on: reliable energy for Indo-Pacific growth and security; securing energy supply chains infrastructure, and maritime routes; enabling energy trade and investment; U.S. leadership on energy security; hydrocarbons; grids, AI and energy demand; financing and investment; civil nuclear; public-private investment frameworks, and delivering deals for energy security.

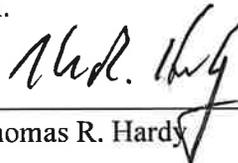
The IPEM program was developed in coordination with the National Energy Dominance Council, the U.S. Departments of Energy, State, Interior, and Commerce, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the Export-Import Bank of the United States ("EXIM"), and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation ("DFC"), as well as with partners in the private sector including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, the Asia Natural Gas & Energy Association, the Center for LNG, the Council for Global Energy Security, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Nuclear Energy Institute, and LNG Allies. Further, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan ("METI") has supported program development. For the above reasons, this event is pivotal to furthering USTDA's mission and serves a compelling purpose.

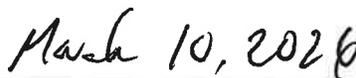
In line with USTDA's financial controls, the agency's Chief of the Office of Acquisition Management carefully reviewed and approved the costs associated with the IPEM prior to its presentation to, and further examination and approval by, the agency's executive team. USTDA estimates the IPEM will cost \$1,337,415. USTDA selected the March 14-15 date and Tokyo, Japan as the location for the IPEM in consultation with interagency partners seeking to leverage partnerships, business executives, and regional leaders in the Indo-Pacific Region.

As part of USTDA's fiscal stewardship, every aspect of the planning, logistics, and implementation of the event has been carefully scrutinized and monitored to ensure all moneys are spent in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. Pursuant to Federal Acquisition Regulation procedures, USTDA has competitively selected an outside contractor to manage all logistics. As part of its arrangement with USTDA, the agency will reimburse the contractor for actual event expenses, such as audio/visual equipment, program production, stage setup, the virtual platform, and other direct costs. This approach allows USTDA to incur only actual event costs rather than guaranteeing the contractor a fixed payment for the entire cost of the event. These measures coupled with USTDA's stringent financial controls will ensure that the agency funds for the IPEM are spent in the most cost-effective manner.

The compelling purposes that will be achieved by the IPEM, coupled with its cost-effectiveness, constitute exceptional circumstances making it the most cost-effective option to achieve such purposes. On this basis, the costs associated with the IPEM are prudent. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance set forth in the OMB Memorandum, I hereby waive the \$500,000 single conference limitation for the IPEM.



Thomas R. Hardy



Date