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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOURTH US NZ PARTNERSHIP FORUM TO BE HELD CHRISTCHURCH, 20-22  
FEBRUARY 2011**

Christchurch has been selected as the venue for the fourth US NZ Partnership Forum which will be held 20-22 February 2011, it was announced in Washington DC today.

“In February 2011 high level government, business and community representatives from the United States and New Zealand will gather his time in Christchurch to discuss how the expanding relationship between the two countries can be enhanced even further” said Stephen Jacobi, Executive Director of the NZ US Council.

Mr Jacobi is presently in Washington DC to attend the Annual General Meeting of the NZ US Council’s Washington based counterpart the US NZ Council.

The Partnership Forum brings together around 100 senior delegates. They meet under “Chatham House rules” and discuss ways in which the relationship can contribute to both countries’ strategic interests including in relation to trade and investment, science and technology, innovation and business development.

“The Partnership Forum which has met three times since 2006 has proven its worth” said Mr Jacobi.

“The Forum has successfully established new momentum in the relationship and provided an important platform for both governments to take the relationship to a whole new level. A feature of the Forum has been the strong relationships created between participants. These relationships will be critical to New Zealand as we seek to conclude the Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations with the United States and six other partners”.

Mr Jacobi said the Council was delighted to be bringing the event to Christchurch and was grateful for the strong support already offered by the Mayor of Christchurch and the local business community.

“It makes sense to hold this meeting in Christchurch which is the home of the United States International Antarctic Programme. The Partnership Forum will be an important opportunity to showcase the city, its science, technology and education capabilities as well as its tourist attractions to an influential American audience”.

**ENDS**

**For further information please contact:**

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**About the NZUS Council – [www.nzuscouncil.com](http://www.nzuscouncil.com)**

The NZ US Council is a non partisan body funded by both business and the Government to promote New Zealand's broader relationship with the US. Two way trade with the US is valued at over \$8 billion and the US is a leading source of investment, innovation and business ideas. Three US NZ Partnership Forum events have been held in April 2006 (Washington), September 2007 (Auckland) and October 2009 (Washington) co-organised by the Council with its Washington-based counterpart the US NZ Council.