RELEASE	IN	PART
B5		

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM:

ECA – Maura Pally

EAP - Kurt Campbell

SUBJECT:

U.S. Participation at Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea

Recommendation

Unless the Department implements an alternative model for participation, ECA recommends that you sign the attached letter (Tab B) informing the Koreans that there will be no official U.S. participation at the 2012 Yeosu Expo. EAP opposes.

Approve	Disapprove	Date				
Alternatively, EAP recommends that you sign the proposed Letter of Intent (TaC), tentatively accepting the Korean invitation. ECA opposes.						
Approve	Disapprove	Date				

Background

In November 2009, the Department received a formal invitation from the Republic of Korea to participate in the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea, an off-year expo. ECA recommends against participation unless the Department can implement an alternative model for participation and EAP recommends participation. Both positions are outlined in the attachments.

Attachment:

Tab A – Background and Positions

Tab B – Proposed letter to Ambassador Han declining invitation

Tab C – Proposed Letter of Intent to Ambassador Han

Tab A: Background and Positions

Background

ECA's Position

In November 2009, the Department received a formal invitation from the Republic of Korea to participate in Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea. Large-scale expos, known as "registered expos," including Shanghai 2010, are held every five years; however, Yeosu is an off-year "recognized expo," and, as such, is shorter in length (three months duration), smaller in scale, and has a narrower theme than registered expos. To date, 35 countries have agreed to participate. The cost of U.S. participation has been tentatively estimated at \$10-15 million.

Since 1994, when Congress legislated that the Department may not expend funds for international expos unless specifically authorized or appropriated, the U.S. has only participated in one off-year expo: Lisbon 1998. Funding for the off-year Lisbon expo came primarily through appropriated funds transferred to USIA from other federal government agencies, with the remainder coming from private sector contributions. In 1999, Congress tightened restrictions by further legislating that no funds made available to the Department by another federal agency may be obligated or expended for such expo purposes without prior congressional notification. Since then, 100% private sector funding has been sought for all U.S. Pavilions at world expos and no appropriations have been requested from Congress.

•

B5

T 4 T 6	—	
EAP's	<u>Position</u>	

<u>UNCLASSIFIED</u>

Drafted by: ECA/PE/C - Catherine Pfaffenroth, 632-9362, 3/17/10

Clearances:

ECA/PE	Chris Miner
ECA/PE/C	Len Korycki
EAP /FO	Joseph Donovan
EAP/K	Dan Larsen
EAP/PD	Jennifer Galt
L/FO	James Thessin
L/PD	Lorie Nierenberg
GPI	Kris Balderston
P	Laura Rosenberger
P	Kristen Pisani
D(S)	Pamela Park
S/P	James Green
R	Gabrielle Guimond
M	Patrick Kennedy