News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Town Hall Meeting on China: Local Connections, National Reflections

WHAT: Town Hall Meeting on China: *Local Connections, National Reflections* with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Christensen appearing via webcast, with moderator Stephen A. Orlins, president of the National Committee on United States-China Relations and Houston-audience facilitator Kevin G. Nealer, principal and partner of The Scowcroft Group, Washington, D.C. Presented simultaneously in some 30 U.S. cities by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, the China Town Hall is sponsored in Houston by the University of St. Thomas Center for International Studies and Asia Society Texas Center.

WHEN: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 31; Doors close 5:45 p.m. Reception following.

WHERE: Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon

BACKGROUND: This 30-minute webcast featuring Christensen will give an overview of U.S. China relations and field audience questions from around the country.

At the conclusion of the half-hour webcast, Kevin Nealer will lead a discussion with the Houston audience on "China's Energy Demands and Implications for U.S." Nealer is an author of the Council on Foreign Relations report "Beginning the Journey: China, The United States and the WTO." He is a consultant to the U.S. defense and intelligence communities on trade and economic security issues.

The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, one of the event sponsors, is a non-profit educational organization established in 1966 to encourage understanding of China and the United States between citizens of both countries. This program is presented by the National Committee on U.S. – China Relations with support of The Starr Foundation. The Starr Foundation, established in 1955 by insurance entrepreneur Cornelius Vander Starr, provides public policy grants to foster better international understanding.

Established in 1981, the University of St. Thomas Center for International Studies is Houston's oldest degree-granting center of international higher learning, preparing students for careers in international business, law, politics and public service. The Center is active in promoting international awareness and understanding throughout Houston via non-profit, corporate, and private partnerships.

Asia Society is a leading global organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States.

Founded in 1956, Asia Society programs now are generated by regional centers in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Shanghai and Washington, D.C.

COST: Free and open to the public; limited seating; Reservations requested 713-439-0265.

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