

depends on expanding the circle of opportunity for everybody, because that next generation of smart, powerful women, they're already knocking on the door. They're coming, and we need to get ready. [*Laughter*]

Last month, I got a chance to meet the winners of the Google Science Fair. This is an international competition of high school students, the cutting edge of technology and science. All three of the winners turned out to be Americans. All three were girls. They had beat out 10,000 other applicants from more than 90 countries. So I had them in the Oval Office, and they explained their projects to me—[*laughter*—and I pretended that I understood what they were talking about. [*Laughter*] There's a picture of this conversation hanging up in the West Wing right now, and they're—I've got a puzzled look on my face—[*laughter*—and they're being very patient.

So one of the winners, Shree Bose, discovered a promising new way to improve treatment for ovarian cancer at the age of 17. Then I asked another winner, Lauren Hodge, if she had skipped a grade in school; she was quite petite. [*Laughter*] And she informed me very politely that she had actually skipped two. [*Laughter*] Okay. [*Laughter*]

It's people like Shree and Lauren, all of you who are here tonight, who make me hopeful about the future. There's a direct line between

those women who sat in those jail cells and those young girls explaining their science project in the Oval Office. There's a direct connection. Because that's what America is about, a place where ideas are born and dreams can grow and where a student in a classroom or a passenger on a bus or a legal secretary in an office can stand up and say, "I am going to change the world." We have always been a nation where anything is possible.

That's the kind of nation that we are. That's the kind of opportunity that must exist here in America. That's the kind of opportunity that must exist for every American, no matter what they look like or where they come from. We've come a long way towards making this country more open and more free for our daughters and theirs. We've got a lot more work to do. With the National Women's Law Center, I am confident that the next time I visit, we'll be even closer to guaranteeing every one of our children get the future they deserve.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:36 p.m. at the Washington Hilton hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Marcia D. Greenberger and Nancy Duff Cambell, copresidents, National Women's Law Center; and Naomi Shah, winner of the 2011 Google Science Fair.

Statement on the Anniversary of the Birth of the Founder of Sikhism *November 10, 2011*

I send my best wishes to all those observing the anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh guru. On this occasion, we are reminded of the fundamental principles of Sikhism, including the equality of all people, the sanctity of living an honest life, and the importance of service to our neighbors. I'm proud that during my Presidency the White

House hosted the first celebration of the birth of Guru Nanak, and our country is grateful for the extraordinary contributions that Sikh Americans have made to our Nation. As Sikhs across America and around the world celebrate the life of Guru Nanak, all of us can draw inspiration from his message of equality, honesty, and helping those who are in need.

Statement on the Progress in Russia's World Trade Organization Accession Talks

November 10, 2011

I congratulate President Medvedev and his Government for completing negotiations on the terms and conditions for Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), which were adopted today by the WTO working party on Russia's accession. The outcome of today's working party meeting is the last step before WTO Ministers approve these terms and invite Russia to become a WTO member, which we expect to take place at the WTO ministerial conference on December 15–17, 2011. After nearly two decades of negotiations, Russia will now be able to join to the WTO. This is a significant day for U.S.-Russia relations and for our commitment to a growing, rules-based global economy.

Since the beginning of my administration, and with increased intensity after President Medvedev and I met in Washington in June 2010, I have supported Russia's WTO accession. Russia's membership in the WTO will lower tariffs, improve international access to Russia's services markets, hold the Russian Government accountable to a system of rules governing trade behavior, and provide the means to enforce those rules.

Russia's membership in the WTO will generate more exports for American manufacturers and farmers, which in turn will support well-paying jobs in the United States.

Russia also is opening its services market in sectors that are priorities to American companies, including audio-visual, telecommunications, financial services, computer, and retail services.

From day one of its membership in the WTO, Russia will be required to comply with WTO rules on the protection and enforcement

of intellectual property rights, including with respect to key rights relied on by U.S. creative and innovative industries.

Russia's membership in the WTO also will benefit American companies and their workers by integrating Russia into a system of rules governing legal transparency and trade behavior and providing the means to enforce those rules.

Upon Russia's accession, the United States will be able to use WTO mechanisms, including dispute settlement, to challenge Russia's actions that are inconsistent with WTO rules.

All of these benefits also apply to Russia's other WTO trading partners, including Georgia, which concluded a far-reaching agreement with Russia yesterday for monitoring trade between their two countries.

I now look forward to working with Congress to end the application of the Jackson-Vanik amendment to Russia in order to ensure that American firms and American exporters will enjoy the same benefits of Russian WTO membership as their international competitors.

Russia's WTO accession would be yet another important step forward in our reset of relations with Russia, which has been based upon the belief that the United States and Russia share many common interests, even as we disagree on some issues. Whether cooperating to supply our forces in Afghanistan, securing nuclear materials, or achieving the New START Treaty, the United States and Russia have demonstrated the ability to produce win-win outcomes on security issues. Russia's dramatic step today towards joining the WTO underscores our ability to cooperate also on economic issues of mutual interest.

Statement on the Department of State's Keystone XL Pipeline Announcement

November 10, 2011

I support the State Department's announcement today regarding the need to seek addi-

tional information about the Keystone XL Pipeline proposal. Because this permit decision