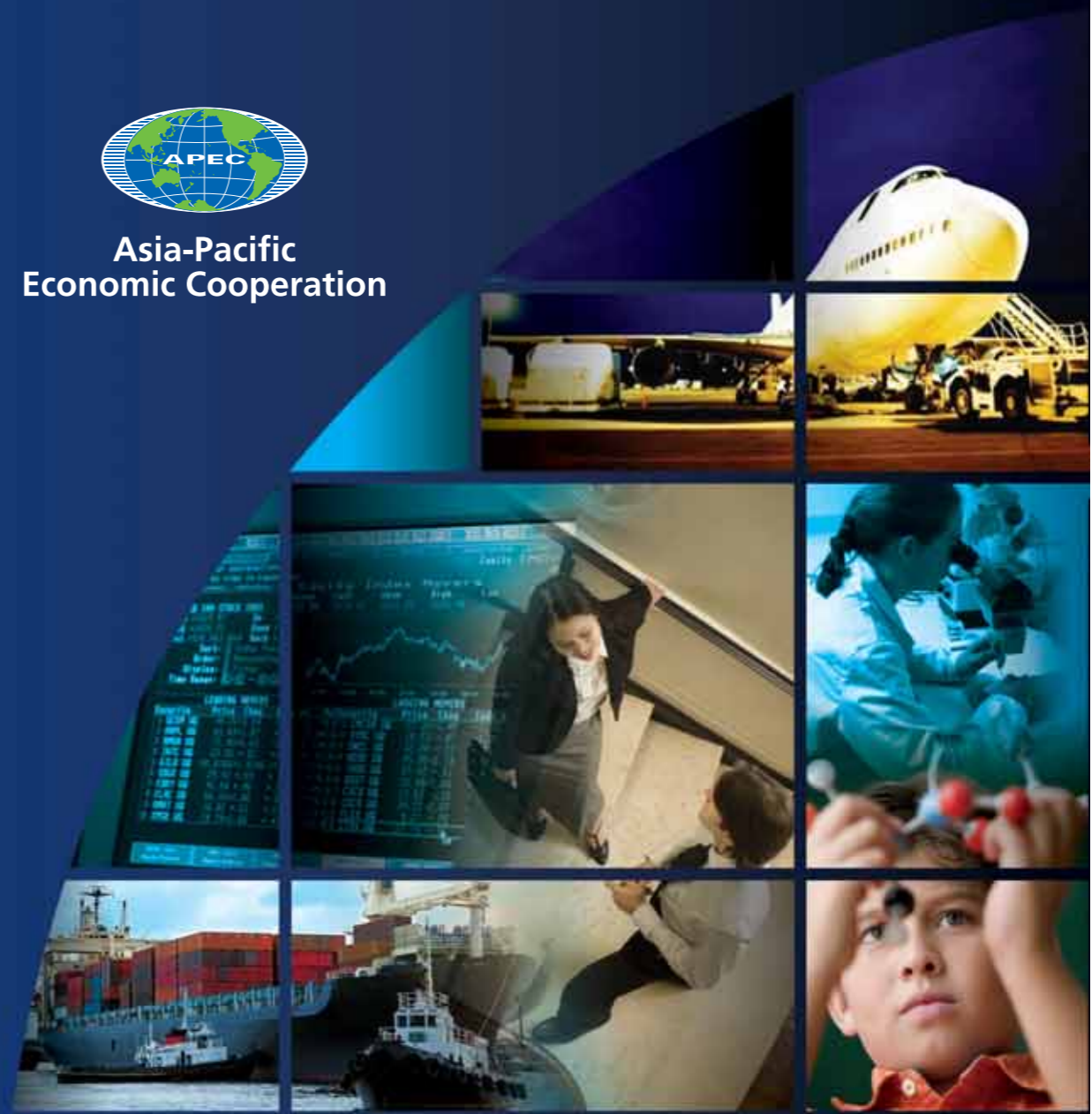




Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



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Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

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Introduction

Dear APEC Stakeholders,

Free and open trade and investment remained a top priority for APEC in 2006. Member economies continued to meet the challenge of sustaining economic development through open and transparent markets. We remained committed to economic reform which has transformed our economies by boosting productivity and growth. And our community continued to integrate as we worked together to address human security concerns.

Under the theme "Towards a Dynamic Community for Sustainable Development and Prosperity," APEC, chaired by Viet Nam in 2006, produced significant outcomes to enhance trade and investment liberalization, strengthen economic and technical cooperation and ensure human security. APEC reaffirmed its determination to take necessary and timely actions to enhance counter-terrorism activities, secure energy supply, protect against health threats and prepare for emergencies as encompassed in the Ha Noi Action Plan.

Building on the five-year target set in Shanghai in 2001 to reduce trade transaction costs by 5%, APEC member economies have targeted a further 5% reduction by 2010. Equipped with a comprehensive plan developed by the Committee on Trade and Investment, APEC's new trade facilitation framework, which was welcomed by Leaders this year, will help APEC achieve a further five-percent reduction by 2010.

APEC affirmed its commitment to the multilateral trading system and urged negotiators to move beyond their current positions to achieve a balanced and ambitious outcome despite the stalled DDA negotiations in Geneva at the World Trade Organization. APEC member economies implemented 121 technical assistance projects, the majority of which focused on developing human capital and strengthening economic infrastructure.

Given the focus on reform this year, APEC reflected on its effectiveness and determined better ways to streamline and strengthen its processes, to ensure greater responsiveness to Leaders' and Ministers' priorities. Under the guidance of the Senior Officials' Committee on Economic and Technical Assistance (SCE) a thorough self-assessment of working groups occurred. This resulted in increasing efficiency for economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH). These reforms will be further enhanced by organizational changes and an expanded financial base, including contributions to the APEC Support Fund by Australia, China, Korea, Chinese Taipei and the United States.

As tariffs have declined throughout the APEC region, attention has gradually shifted to behind-the-border barriers that inhibit cross-border trade and investment. In 2006, the Economic Committee shifted its focus to a structural reform agenda which consists of improvements to institutional frameworks, regulations and government policies so that the efficient functioning of markets is supported and behind-the-border barriers are reduced.

APEC, chaired by Australia in 2007, will pursue objectives that seek to achieve an ambitious and balanced conclusion to world trade negotiations, encourage substantial economic reform, address the twin challenges of energy security and sustainable development, combat terrorism and strengthen APEC with meaningful reforms.

Returning to the venue of the first meeting in 1989, APEC 2007 in Australia reminds us that the Asia-Pacific region is growing ever closer, linked by the networks of trade, investment and business, strong people-to-people ties and a common vision for growth and prosperity. APEC is ready to seize the challenge by forging these strong economic bonds.

We will continue to strengthen our community and build a sustainable future.

Yours truly,

Amb. Tran Trong Toan
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat 2006

Amb. Colin Heseltine
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat 2007



APEC Member Economies



Australia Brunei Darussalam Canada Chile People's Republic of China Hong Kong, China Indonesia Japan Republic of Korea Malaysia Mexico New Zealand Papua New Guinea Peru The Republic of the Philippines The Russian Federation Singapore Chinese Taipei Thailand United States of America Viet Nam



APEC Viet Nam 2006



APEC, comprising 21 member economies, is home to more than 2.6 billion people and represents approximately 56% of world GDP and 49% of world trade. Leaders of APEC economies meet annually to discuss a range of issues that are focused on economic growth and prosperity for the region. At this year's APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, held on November 18 and 19 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, Leaders issued the Ha Noi Declaration and a stand-alone statement on the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda.

14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting: Ha Noi Declaration

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 18-19 November 2006

We, Economic Leaders of Member Economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), gathered in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 18-19 November 2006 for the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting under the APEC 2006 theme of

**“Towards a Dynamic
Community for
Sustainable
Development
and Prosperity.”**

With a strong commitment to achieving the vision of stability, security and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific region, we agreed to make every effort for realizing APEC's goals of free and open trade and investment. We dedicated ourselves to preventing threats to sustainable development, to building a secure and favorable business environment and to enhancing human security. We pledged to continue our work towards a dynamic and harmonious Asia-Pacific community by building strong societies for the well-being of our peoples.

Advancing Free Trade and Investment

We reaffirmed that support for the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) remains a top priority of APEC. The consequences of the failure of the Doha Round would be too grave for our economies and for the global multilateral trading system. We should, therefore, spare no efforts to break the current deadlocks and achieve an ambitious and overall balanced outcome of the Round with the development dimension being at its core. Our will and resolve were stated in the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting Statement on the DDA of the WTO.

We acknowledged the role of high-quality, consistent, transparent and comprehensive Regional Trade Agreements/Free Trade

Agreements (RTAs/FTAs) in advancing trade liberalization and the need to ensure that RTAs/FTAs lead to greater trade liberalization and genuine reductions in trade transaction costs. We commended the completion of model measures for six RTAs/FTAs chapters. We reaffirmed that the model measures would serve as the reference for APEC member economies negotiating high-quality FTAs. We also reiterated the non-binding and voluntary nature of the model measures, bearing in mind that they will not prejudice the positions of APEC members in their existing and future RTAs/FTAs negotiations. We instructed Officials to continue work on model measures in 2007, so model measures for as many commonly accepted RTAs/FTAs chapters as possible are developed by 2008, as we called for in 2005 in Busan.



We recognized that unprecedented economic developments in the Asia-Pacific region are drawing our economies closer together. We noted that our business communities have highlighted the implications of the growing number of diverse FTAs in the Asia-Pacific and that other regional arrangements are emerging. We reiterated our commitment to greater economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region and pledged to strengthen our efforts towards this end. We shared the APEC Business Advisory Council's (ABAC) views that while there are practical difficulties in negotiating a Free Trade Area of the Asia-

Pacific at this time, it would nonetheless be timely for APEC to seriously consider more effective avenues towards trade and investment liberalization in the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, while affirming our commitments to the Bogor Goals and the successful conclusion of the WTO/DDA negotiations, we instructed Officials to undertake further studies on ways and means to promote regional economic integration, including a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific as a long-term prospect, and report to the 2007 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Australia.



We noted with satisfaction the progress made by member economies in implementing the Busan Roadmap towards the Bogor Goals, which demonstrates APEC's commitment to achieving free and open trade in the Asia-Pacific. We welcomed and endorsed the Ha Noi Action Plan to implement the Busan Roadmap towards the Bogor Goals, which is comprised of specific measures, schedules, and capacity building initiatives. In this regard, we emphasized the importance of measures aimed at reducing business transaction costs and building a more secure and favorable business environment. We highlighted numerous steps taken this year to carry forward the Busan Business Agenda of the Busan Roadmap, including the following:

- Concluding that APEC has met the Shanghai target, set in 2001, of a five-percent reduction in trade transaction costs by 2006, we welcomed the framework for the next Trade Facilitation Action Plan, targeting a further reduction of trade transaction costs by five percent in the APEC region by 2010;
- We welcomed the expanded work program on investment liberalization and facilitation in collaboration with ABAC and other relevant international organizations;

- Affirming the importance of strong intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement to economic growth and trade in the Asia-Pacific region, we endorsed the two new Model Guidelines under the APEC Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative to inform citizens about the importance of IPR protection and enforcement and to secure supply chains against counterfeit and pirated goods. We called on economies to continue their work to address IPR protection and enforcement challenges in the region in close consultation with the private sector; and
- We welcomed the multi-year Private Sector Development Workplan designed to cut red tape and lift the quality of business regulations, which would particularly benefit small and medium-sized enterprises. We instructed the SMEs Ministers to lead coordination efforts within APEC.

We instructed Ministers to ensure steady implementation of the Ha Noi Action Plan in close collaboration with ABAC. We also appreciated relevant recommendations from ABAC and encouraged APEC fora to take them into consideration when developing their work programs.

We recognized the need to intensify work on structural reforms and took note of progress in carrying out the Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform toward 2010 (LAISR 2010). We welcomed the completion of the Report on Socio-Economic Disparity in the APEC region and stressed the importance of enhancing activities across APEC fora in order to combat socio-economic disparity issues in the APEC region.

We noted the importance of open and robust financial systems and the orderly adjustment of global imbalances through fiscal sustainability, price and exchange rate flexibility, reforms to promote investment, strengthened financial markets, more balanced domestic demand, and improved corporate governance and legal infrastructure across the Asia-Pacific region as identified by APEC Finance Ministers. We welcomed the progress made on IMF reform, including quota and voice reform, and called upon IMF members to work towards its timely conclusion. Recognizing the importance of financial stability for the region's continuing economic growth and development, we noted the discussion at the IMF examining the possible creation of a new liquidity instrument that could help prevent financial crises in the region.



As part of our continued work to advance the 2002 Leaders' Pathfinder "Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy," we adopted the "APEC Technology Choice Principles" as a new pathfinder initiative to spur the cycle of innovation and opportunity and to promote economic development across the region. We also called on member economies to exercise appropriate oversight to achieve the objective that central government agencies use only legal software and other copyright materials; that such bodies implement effective policies intended to prevent copyright infringement on their computer systems and via the Internet, in accordance with relevant international conventions and domestic laws and regulations concerning copyright and related rights; and that central government funds are not used by contractors or recipient institutions to purchase illegal software or other illegal copyright materials. In addition, we recognized the need for continued efforts to increase capacity building to assist economies of different levels of development to strengthen IPR protection and enforcement.



Enhancing Human Security

We condemned terrorist acts, which are posing serious threats world-wide. In keeping with our commitment to advance regional prosperity and sustainable development and our complementary mission of ensuring security for our peoples, we are determined to continue efforts to combat terrorism in every form and manifestation. We reaffirmed that any measures taken to combat terrorism must comply with our international obligations.

We commended the progress in implementing the commitments adopted in Bangkok in 2003 to dismantle trans-boundary terrorist groups, to eliminate the danger posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and to confront other direct threats to the security of our region. Toward this end, we acknowledged the need to take appropriate individual and joint actions, consistent with each economy's circumstances, to further those commitments, including the need to protect legitimate financial and commercial systems from abuse.

We welcomed the APEC 2006 counter-terrorism initiatives endorsed by Ministers and encouraged member economies to take appropriate individual and joint actions, in accordance with international law and consistent with each economy's circumstances,

to implement the existing commitments with a view to enhancing secure trade in the region.

Acknowledging the significance of counter-terrorism efforts to realizing APEC's core goals of free trade and investment, we reiterated the importance of counter-terrorism work in APEC. We emphasized total supply chain security as a priority for 2007 and welcomed a study by APEC economies to look at ways to facilitate the recovery of trade in the event of major disruptions to the global supply chain caused by terrorist attack or other calamities. We agreed to take forward in 2007 further cooperation and capacity building activities to counter the financing of terrorism. We welcomed measures to improve aviation security and encouraged member economies to further share strategies and develop best practices to defend the food supply from deliberate contamination. We welcomed the expansion of the Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS) and noted that the system is open to additional member economies.

We endorsed the APEC Action Plan on Prevention and Response to Avian and Influenza Pandemics adopted in May 2006 and we affirmed our commitment to its implementation. We welcomed the Beijing consensus adopted at the APEC Symposium

on Emerging Infectious Diseases. We commended the collaboration in APEC on health and emergency preparedness and urged continued multi-sectoral, regional and international cooperation on policies and infrastructure to mitigate pandemic influenza. We called on expanded capacity building and technical collaboration between economies, and urged deepened engagement of the private sector to help ensure continuity of business, trade and essential services in the event of a pandemic outbreak. We welcomed the Life Science Innovation Forum's plan to discuss ways to address these challenges in conjunction with other APEC fora.

We agreed to enhance cooperation within APEC on HIV/AIDS, and resolved to expand efforts towards combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, ensuring the protection of the rights of those living with the disease; and achieving the United Nations declared goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care and support by 2010.

We noted APEC's value-added role and cooperative efforts in dealing with emergency preparedness and disaster response. Recognizing that large-scale natural disasters that affect one economy can affect all of us, we urged member economies to further

intensify cooperation, including with the private sector, to maximize regional available resources in order to better prepare the region for disasters and post-disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction. We also took note of the importance of cooperation in developing and sharing new technologies and adapting the existing ones, including in agriculture, to mitigate the damage caused by natural disasters.

We reiterated that energy security is critical for sustainable economic development. Noting the challenges of meeting rapidly growing energy demands while minimizing environmental effects, we urged member economies to continue to work to facilitate energy investments and cross-border energy trade, to develop new and renewable energy sources and technologies to ensure cleaner use of fossil fuels, to boost energy efficiency and conservation, to enhance emergency preparedness and to better protect critical energy infrastructure. We commended the launch of the APEC Biofuels Task Force. We instructed Ministers to report to us in 2007 on ways in which APEC might further contribute to responding to these challenges through pursuing policies and technologies that promote the development of cleaner energy and the improvement of energy efficiency, thereby enabling economies to meet increasing energy needs with a lower environmental impact and to address climate change objectives.



Building Stronger Societies and a More Dynamic and Harmonious Community

While we noted with satisfaction the important progress achieved this year, we understood many other tasks remain to be fulfilled in order to build stronger societies and a more dynamic and harmonious community.

We recognized the importance of economic and technical cooperation to ensure equitable growth and shared prosperity in the region and global competitiveness as a foundation to advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. We welcomed the outcomes

and efforts to strengthen the prioritization and effective implementation of economic and technical cooperation through APEC fora. These achievements will ensure more focused economic and technical cooperation and bring a more strategic perspective to APEC's capacity building and technical assistance. We reiterated that education and capacity building remain a priority within the APEC agenda.

We welcomed the contributions by the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea

and the United States to the APEC Support Fund to advance economic and technical cooperation to ensure equitable and shared prosperity. We welcomed earlier contributions by Australia and Chinese Taipei to the Fund. We also appreciated Japan's continuous contribution to the Trade and Investment Liberalization and Facilitation (TILF) Fund. We encouraged member economies' further contributions to the APEC TILF and APEC Support Fund with a view to providing more resources for facilitating trade and investment and implementing capacity building activities.

We also endorsed the APEC Port Service Network Initiative to facilitate cooperation and communication among ports and related sectors in APEC member economies.

We underlined the importance of small and medium sized enterprises and urged member economies to make every effort to develop and implement specific measures to improve their competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship in line with the "Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening SME Competitiveness for Trade and Investment" and "the Daegu Initiative on SME Innovation Action Plan".



We identified corruption as one of the greatest obstacles to economic and social development, agreed to fight corruption and usher in a community of integrity by effectively implementing APEC Anti-corruption and Transparency (ACT) Task Force's initiatives through enforcement of anti-bribery law, prosecution, law enforcement, and denial of safe haven. We endorsed the APEC 2006 Key Deliverables on Prosecuting Corruption, Strengthening Governance and Promoting Market Integrity, and encouraged APEC economies to strengthen APEC's work and to complete a progress report on the implementation of ACT commitments by 2007. We instructed Senior Officials to work with ABAC and other business leaders to strengthen corporate governance to assure greater economic opportunities and prosperity.

We affirmed the significance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for APEC's development. We acknowledged the efforts made in reaching the Brunei Goals on Internet access and instructed Ministers to further facilitate achievement of these goals. We reaffirmed the importance of realizing the Asia-Pacific Information Society. We recognized the significance of the cross-border privacy rules concept in ensuring responsible and accountable cross-border information flows without creating unnecessary barriers.

We attached great importance to the APEC priority on promoting community linkages with a view to generating better understanding and trust among APEC members. We endorsed the Hoi An Declaration on Promoting Tourism adopted by APEC Tourism Ministers and urged member economies to further explore opportunities for tourism cooperation and to identify the impediments to the travel and tourism industry. We welcomed the APEC Inter-Cultural and Faith Initiative endorsed by Ministers and acknowledged that in order to support economic growth and to promote a healthy multi-cultural environment, it is important to deepen mutual understanding and develop social interaction through inter-cultural and faith dialogue in the APEC region.

We emphasized the need to make APEC more efficient and results-oriented. We commended progress on APEC reform and endorsed the 2006 reform package. We reaffirmed that reform is a high priority and that APEC must continue to evolve to meet new challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing environment. We instructed Ministers and APEC Senior Officials to continue their work on APEC reform in 2007 and beyond, including the allocation of greater resources, further measures to streamline the organization, to improve evaluation and coordination, to strengthen and professionalize the Secretariat and to develop more effective delivery mechanisms for policy initiatives.

We endorsed in full the Joint Statement agreed by Ministers at the 18th APEC Ministerial Meeting.



Statement on the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 18 November 2006

1. We, the APEC Economic Leaders, celebrate Viet Nam's accession to the WTO and the completion of a major milestone towards Russia's admission to the WTO. We intend to build on the energy and momentum generated by these historic events to meet the challenges we confront in the Doha Round.
2. We reaffirm our collective and individual commitments to concluding an ambitious and balanced WTO Doha agreement. To meet this goal, we have an urgent need to break the current deadlock and to put the negotiations back on a path towards a timely conclusion. A successful Doha Round will contribute to global economic growth and to the alleviation of poverty. It must do so by creating new trade flows and by effectively addressing the development dimension.
3. APEC economies have a proud tradition of leadership on WTO matters. We are determined to resume without further delay negotiations to achieve a balanced and ambitious outcome that works for all WTO members. Although agriculture remains the key to resolving the current impasse, we need to build an overall package covering market access for industrial goods and services, rules and trade facilitation.
4. We are ready to break the current deadlock: each of us is committed to moving beyond our current positions in key areas of the Round. That means making deeper reductions in trade-distorting farm support by major players, creating new market access in agriculture, making real cuts in industrial tariffs, and establishing new openings in services trade, while dealing seriously with members' concerns and sensitivities. All APEC members are ready to lead, but others also must signal their readiness and resolve.
5. APEC's future is inextricably linked to a strong and vibrant multilateral trading system. We will remain personally involved to ensure that negotiations are resumed and will ensure the necessary flexibility and ambition to secure a breakthrough. We urge our partners in other regions to be similarly bold and engaged.



APEC Viet Nam 2006

Towards a Dynamic Community for Sustainable Development and Prosperity

The 2006 APEC theme promotes the role of sustainable development as a means to achieve the goal of common prosperity for the Asia-Pacific region. The theme highlights the need for the APEC community to be dynamic so as to effectively deal with the challenges of a fast-changing international environment.

This view is shared by both developing and industrialized economies in the Asia-Pacific region as we seek to ensure that the APEC process is "human-oriented" and responsive to the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Enhance Trade and Investment with the Busan Roadmap and Doha Development Agenda

APEC Leaders released a stand-alone statement to re-start discussions concerning the WTO Doha Development Agenda. They seek ambitious and balanced outcomes on the multilateral trade negotiations.

Identifying specific actions and milestones, the *Ha Noi Action Plan to Implement the Busan Roadmap Towards the Bogor Goals* calls for APEC to remain committed to restarting multilateral negotiations and achieving a breakthrough to bring the Doha Development Round negotiations to a successful conclusion with ambitious and balanced outcomes. APEC members will also continue to conduct capacity building activities across

the full range of areas to enhance economies' understanding of WTO agreements and obligations.

The Ha Noi Action Plan contains concrete measures to be taken in five key areas, including:

- 1) support for the multilateral trading system;
- 2) strengthening individual and collective actions by member economies;
- 3) promotion of high-quality Regional Trade Arrangements (RTAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs);
- 4) the Busan Business Agenda and
- 5) economic and technical cooperation.

Strengthen Economic and Technical Cooperation for Gap Bridging and Sustainable Development

The Senior Officials' Steering Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (SCE) refocused and provided a more strategic approach to APEC's capacity-building activities. A broad range of initiatives centered on sustainable development; human resources development; marine and coastal resources; fisheries and aquaculture; industrial science and technology; and small and medium enterprises were completed in 2006 by working groups and task forces.

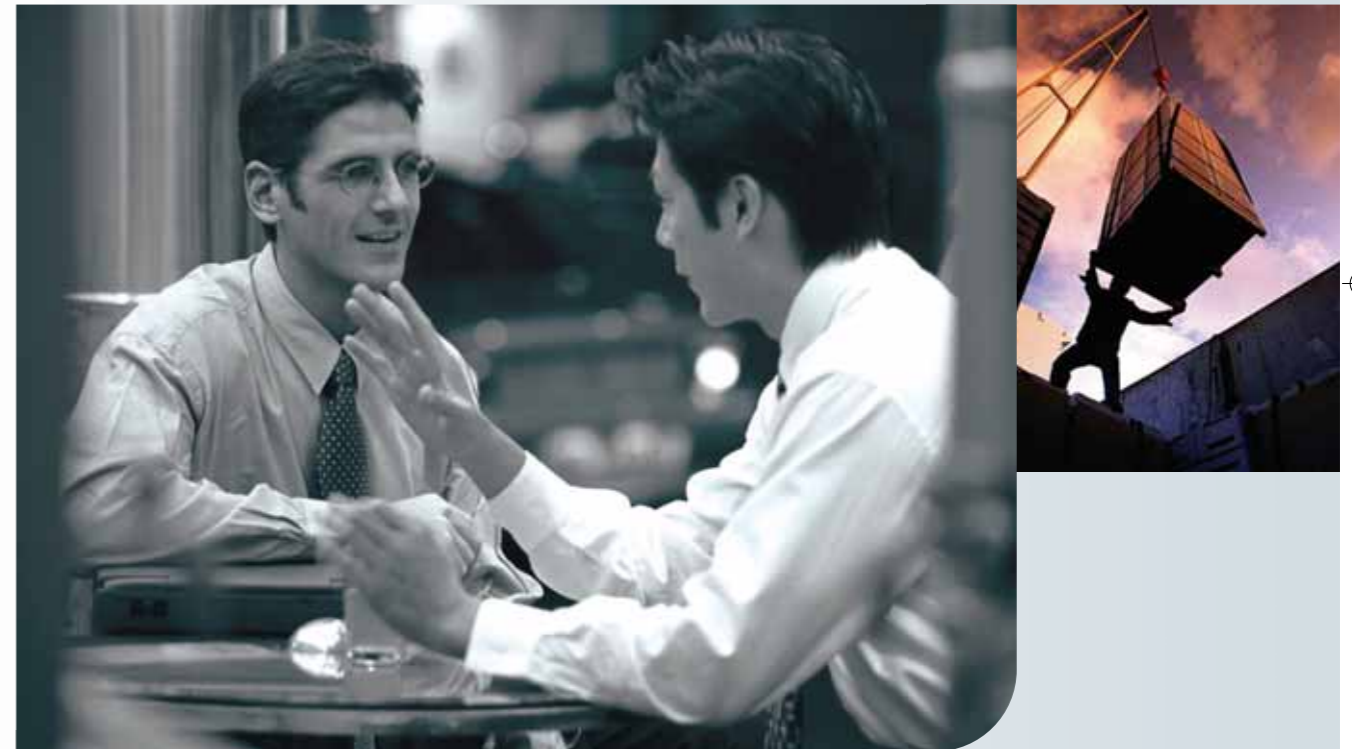
Contributions by Australia, China, Korea, Chinese Taipei and the United States to the APEC Support Fund (ASF) will bolster capacity building activities throughout the region. The funding will be used for capacity building projects focused on preparedness planning, surveillance and reporting, counter-terrorism, health security, and energy security. It will also be used to promote cooperation in high priority ECOTECH sectors.

Improve Secure and Favorable Business Environment

The Finance Ministers' statement called for an orderly readjustment of global imbalances in a way that sustains strong regional and global economic growth, and the shared responsibility that APEC economies have in bringing this about. Reducing global imbalances while maintaining growth requires fiscal sustainability and price and exchange rate flexibility. Reforms have been undertaken to promote investment, strengthen financial markets, generate more balanced domestic demand, and improve corporate governance and legal infrastructure across the Asia-Pacific region.

Agreeing to further simplifying customs procedures in the region, member economies have taken a common approach to the development of single-windows for the use of international traders, transport operators and government agencies. This will simplify and decrease the regulatory burden on business.

The United States announced in Ha Noi that it would recognize the APEC Business Travel Card to expedite card-holders' passage through major U.S. airports and provide facilitated visa processing for card applicants. The announcement marks another important step in the growth of this program to facilitate business travel in the region.



Promote Community Linkages

The APEC Film Festival 2006 was held in Ha Noi, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City in October and the APEC Photography Exhibition in Ha Noi was held during the APEC Leaders' Week 2006. These events contributed to promoting mutual understanding, friendship and the sense of community among APEC member economies.

With endorsement by member economies, the APEC Inter-Cultural and Faith Initiative held a symposium to provide opportunities for those with different cultural and faith backgrounds to develop social interaction and achieve mutual understanding, acceptance and trust, which are essential to promote trade and investment in the region.



Priorities

Promote APEC Cooperation to Enhance Trade and Investment

Model Measures for Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including trade in goods; technical barriers to trade; transparency; government procurement; cooperation; and dispute settlement were developed to encourage a coherent and consistent approach to the design and content of such agreements. The model measures are indicative examples aimed at providing members with useful references in negotiating RTA/FTA chapters. They are a guide to the kind of provisions that might be included in a free-trade agreement.

With the completion of two new sets of guidelines to secure the supply chain against counterfeit and pirated goods, a timely

response was provided to the emerging challenges of online piracy and trade in counterfeit and pirated goods.

As a result of the review of the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAP) that was undertaken in 2006, the Committee on Trade and Investment developed a framework to steer member economies' trade facilitation work beyond 2006 to reduce business transaction costs by another 5% by 2010.

The new "APEC Technology Choice Principles" Pathfinder initiative was adopted to spur the cycle of innovation and opportunity, and promote economic development across the region.

Enhance Human Security: Counter Terrorism, Health Security, Disaster Preparedness and Energy Security.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors is a critical element to ensure secure trade, human security and to reducing any adverse impacts that anti-terrorism activities may have on trade and investment development in the APEC region. The importance of the private-public sector partnership in securing trade and human security was highlighted by the active engagement of all stakeholders, including those from the private and public sectors at the STAR IV Conference, the APEC Symposium on Total Supply Chain Security, and the APEC Food Defense Workshop for "Mitigating the Terrorist Threat to the APEC Food Supply.

The United States, Australia, and New Zealand successfully completed the pilot-phase of the Regional Movement Alert System (RMAS); a world first in a real-time system for multilateral travel document data exchange. APEC developed a multilateral legal framework to enable the expansion of the RMAS to allow participation by other APEC members. This innovative new system will help to combat trans-national crime and terrorism by detecting the use of lost and stolen travel documents while facilitating the safe and efficient movement of legitimate travelers.

Bolstered by workshops around the region and partnerships with international health organizations, APEC economies focused on building capacity to control avian influenza at its source in birds and mitigate the effects of pandemic influenza. Actions undertaken by member economies such as drafting of protocols, plans and standard operating procedures; pre-identifying pools of experts; developing international and regional stockpiles; and agreeing on "signal" detection and reporting system will moderate the effects of this threat.



Enhance Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises

Members recognized the importance of strengthening SME Competitiveness for Trade and Investment through developing an enabling environment that fosters SMEs' and Micro Enterprises' (MEs) competitiveness, innovation and entrepreneurship and supports their capacity to invest and trade.

Along with several capacity building projects, Ministers released the "Ha Noi Declaration on Strengthening SME Competitiveness for Trade and Investment" to assist small businesses deal with the challenges posed by globalization. The Ha Noi Declaration

specifies measures for economies to reduce red tape, create export opportunities and share knowledge to create the right environment for SME development.

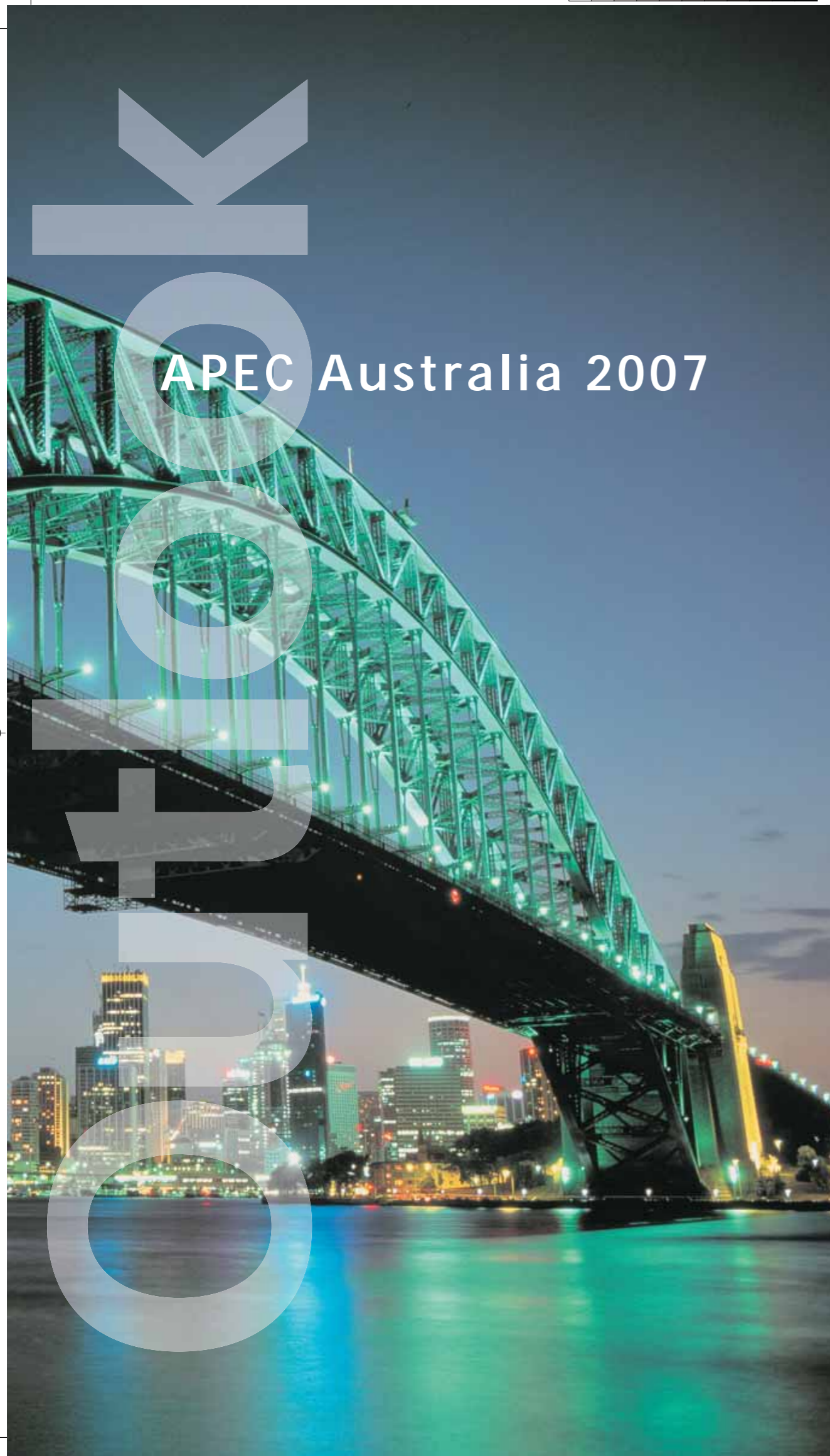
APEC is actively engaged in developing an agenda for private sector development. In 2006 four key areas were identified by APEC for further action including easing regulatory burdens through development of simpler, more transparent and efficient administrative systems; reducing taxation complexity; improving access to finance; and addressing labor law complexity.

Promote Integration Capacity through Human Resources Development, IT Cooperation, and Partnership for Development

Members welcomed the collaboration with the private sector on developing a framework for ICT-enabled growth in the region, focusing initially on the four key sectors of infrastructure, health, finance and commerce.

Members also supported initiatives that enhance education, information technology, protection in the workplace and partnerships

for development. Some of these projects include the APEC Education Foundation, APEC Cyber Education Network, Knowledge Bank of Policy and Practice, APEC Cyber Academy Project, and Best Practices and Innovations in the Teaching and Learning of Science and Mathematics at Secondary Level.



APEC Australia 2007



APEC's objectives represent the main areas on which APEC members and working groups will focus their efforts throughout 2007 in order to produce meaningful and concrete deliverables for submission to APEC Ministers and Leaders.

APEC 2007 Theme

Strengthening our Community, Building a Sustainable Future

In 2007, APEC returns to Australia where the first APEC Ministerial Meeting, consisting of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministers from 12 economies, was held in Canberra on 6-7 November 1989.

APEC Economic Leaders have set a challenging and ambitious agenda for 2007. Responding to the forces of regional economic integration, the economic reform agenda, energy issues and competitive regionalism, 2007 provides an opportunity to advance a strong agenda for APEC.

Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System

APEC 2007 begins at a challenging and uncertain time for the future of the WTO Doha Development Agenda. APEC Leaders agreed in 2006 that moving beyond current positions in the key areas of the negotiation will help to ensure a balanced outcome to the Round. This includes major players making deeper reductions in trade-distorting farm support, creating new market access in agriculture, making real cuts in industrial tariffs, and establishing new openings in services trade.

means to promote regional economic integration, including a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific as a long-term prospect, and report to the 2007 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Australia.

APEC will continue to work on model measures which will serve as a reference for APEC member economies to help achieve comprehensive and high-quality free-trade agreements.

Based on ABAC's recommendation, APEC will undertake further studies on ways and

Capacity building activities will continue to be implemented across the full range of areas included in DDA negotiations.

Economic Reform & Trade Facilitation

Recognizing the need for structural reforms to make it easier and more desirable to do business, APEC will address behind-the-border barriers to trade, and promote other forms of economic cooperation to lift growth performance and contribute to greater regional integration. The work will focus on promoting high-quality economic policy dialogue, strengthening economic infrastructure and improving regulatory efficiency.

To ensure the ease of doing business, APEC will also work to develop common approaches for facilitating customs procedures, encouraging business mobility and protecting intellectual property rights (IPR).



Human Security

Counter-Terrorism and Secure Trade

APEC member economies will take individual and joint actions to secure trade in the APEC region to thwart the danger of terrorism.

Preventing terrorist financing, improving aviation security, and defending the integrity of the food supply from contamination will also be tackled with the active participation of the private sector. APEC will work closely with the business community in 2007 to

protect the regional economy from harm caused by terrorism.

Along with its business partners, APEC will work together to develop joint strategies and best practices to ensure both security and economic efficiency and minimize additional transaction costs borne by the business community as a result of increased security measures.

Energy Security

Recognizing that energy security is critical for sustainable economic development and the need to minimize the environmental effects of rapidly growing energy demand, APEC members will work to promote policies and technologies that advance the development of cleaner energy and energy efficiency. APEC members will also continue to encourage energy investments and cross-border energy trade. Developing new and renewable energy sources and technologies will also help to ensure cleaner use of fossil

fuels, boost energy efficiency and conservation, and better protect critical energy infrastructure.

Members will respond to these challenges by pursuing policies and technologies that promote the development of cleaner energy and the improvement of energy efficiency. By embracing this challenge, economies will meet increasing energy needs with a lower environmental impact and address climate change objectives.

Health and Emergency Preparedness

Health crises have the potential to threaten the region's commerce, trade and security. APEC will promote common plans, policies and communication among members to reduce the likelihood and the impact of such diseases as avian influenza and HIV/AIDS.

APEC members will expand the collaborative process between economies and further engage with the private sector to help to ensure the continuity of business in the event

of a pandemic. A coordinated approach will include capacity building, technical assistance and strategic planning.

In view of the experience of APEC member economies which have suffered extensively in recent years from the devastation of large-scale tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes, we will further intensify cooperation in the area of emergency preparedness.

APEC Reform

Revitalizing APEC by improving structures, linkages and decision-making processes and by boosting the capacity of the APEC Secretariat to underpin well-managed projects and conduct research and analysis will continue in 2007. A strong APEC reform package adopted in 2006 will be implemented, with practical measures designed to strengthen APEC institutions and to ensure a clearer and more focused policy agenda.

A process of restructuring Senior Officials' meetings and work practices to ensure an action-oriented agenda is underway, together with implementation of reform and rationalization at the working group and

committee level. Further improving interaction with stakeholders such as ABAC and the broader business community is also a key priority for 2007.

To improve operational efficiency at the APEC Secretariat, a Chief Operating Officer will be appointed in 2007. The COO will have broad management responsibility for finance, administration, information technology and communications.

APEC will also work to establish a unit to provide research, analysis and policy advice to better inform the decision-making process. Strengthening APEC will remain a key objective in 2007.

Scheduled Meetings of Ministers and Senior Officials in 2007

Meeting	Dates	Location
Senior Officials Meeting (SOM I)	15 - 26 January	Canberra, ACT
Ministers Responsible for Mining Meeting	12 - 16 February	Perth, WA
Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Ministerial Meeting	7 - 9 March	Hobart, TAS
Transportation Ministers Meeting	28 - 30 March	Adelaide, SA
Senior Officials Meeting (SOM II)	16 - 24 April	Adelaide, SA
Energy Ministers Meeting	27 - 30 May	Darwin, NT
Health Ministers' Meeting	6 - 8 June	Sydney
Senior Officials Meeting (SOM III)	22 June - 3 July	Cairns, QLD
Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting	4 - 6 July	Cairns, QLD
Finance Ministers Meeting	30 July - 3 August	Coolumb, QLD
Concluding Senior Officials Meeting	2 - 3 September	Sydney
APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meeting	2 - 6 September	Sydney
APEC Ministerial Meeting	5 - 6 September	Sydney APEC
2007 Business Summit	6 - 7 September	Sydney
ABAC Dialogue with Leaders	8 September	Sydney
APEC Economic Leaders Meeting	8 - 9 September	Sydney



Scheduled Meetings of Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials in 2007 can be found at www.apec2007.org



Key APEC Milestones

2006

Ha Noi, Viet Nam

APEC Economic Leaders endorse the Ha Noi Action Plan which identifies specific actions and milestones to implement the Bogor Goals and support capacity-building measures to help APEC economies. They also issue a statement on the WTO Doha Development Agenda calling for ambitious and balanced outcomes. To prioritize its agenda, APEC takes a strategic approach to reform working groups and strengthen the Secretariat.

2005

Busan, Korea

APEC adopts the Busan Roadmap, completes the Mid-Term Stocktake which has found that APEC is well on its way to meeting the Bogor Goals, and the APEC Privacy Framework. Leaders issue a stand-alone statement in support of a successful conclusion to the WTO's 6th Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong, China and agree to confront pandemic health threats and continue to fight against terrorism which could cause deep economic insecurity for the region.

2004

Santiago, Chile

APEC issues a strong statement of support for progress in the WTO Doha Development Agenda and sets a target date for achieving a breakthrough in negotiations: December 2005, the convening of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference. APEC adopts Best Practices for RTAs and FTAs, the Santiago Initiative for Expanded Trade and a Data Privacy Framework. APEC reiterates its "unmistakable resolve" to confront the threat of terrorism, and makes a political commitment to fight corruption and ensure transparency, and endorses a specific Course of Action towards this end.

2003

Bangkok, Thailand

APEC agrees to re-energize the WTO Doha Development Agenda negotiations. Actions are agreed to curb terrorist threats posed by Man Portable Air Defense Systems, to better co-ordinate counter-terrorism activities and to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative. Stepping up efforts to build Knowledge-Based Economies, strengthening efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and accelerating regional structural reform are also agreed.

2002

Los Cabos, Mexico

APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan, Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy and Transparency Standards. APEC's second Counter-Terrorism Statement is delivered, along with the adoption of the Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) Initiative.

2001

Shanghai, People's Republic of China

APEC adopts the Shanghai Accord, which focuses on Broadening the APEC Vision, Clarifying the Roadmap to Bogor and Strengthening the Implementation Mechanism. The e-APEC Strategy is adopted, which sets out an agenda to strengthen market structures and institutions, facilitate infrastructure investment and technology for on-line transactions and promote entrepreneurship and human capacity building. APEC's first Counter-Terrorism Statement is issued.

20

2000

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

APEC establishes an electronic Individual Action Plan (e-IAP) system, providing IAPs online and commits to the Action Plan for the New Economy, which, amongst other objectives, aims to triple Internet access throughout APEC region by 2005.

1999

Auckland, New Zealand

APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. APEC Business Travel Card scheme is approved and a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Electrical Equipment and a Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC is endorsed.

1998

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

APEC agrees on the first nine sectors for EVSL and seeks an EVSL agreement with non-APEC members at the World Trade Organization.

1997

Vancouver, Canada

APEC endorses a proposal for early voluntary sectoral liberalization (EVSL) in 15 sectors and decides that Individual Action Plans should be updated annually.

1996

Manila, The Philippines

The Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA) is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalization and facilitation measures to reach the Bogor Goals and the first Collective and Individual Action Plans are compiled, outlining how economies will achieve the free trade goals.

1995

Osaka, Japan

APEC adopts the Osaka Action Agenda (OAA) which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalization, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues, economic and technical cooperation.

1994

Bogor, Indonesia

APEC sets the Bogor Goals of, "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies."

1993

Blake Island, United States

APEC Economic Leaders meet for the first time and outline APEC's vision, "stability, security and prosperity for our peoples."

1989

Canberra, Australia

APEC begins as an informal Ministerial-level dialogue group with 12 members.

21



APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was established to take advantage of the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies, by facilitating economic growth for all participants and enhancing a sense of community in the region. It aims to help improve trade and economic performance and regional links for the prosperity of the people in the region.

Since its inception in 1989, APEC has helped to reduce tariffs and other barriers to trade across the Asia-Pacific region. Business

transaction costs were reduced by 5% between 2001 and 2006 and are scheduled to be cut by a further 5% by 2010. APEC has worked to create an environment to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods, services and people across borders in the region through policy decisions and economic and technical cooperation. During this period, APEC member economies have grown and developing economies, in particular, have experienced increases in GDP and standards of living.

Member Economy and Year Joined	Area ¹ ('000 sq km)	Population ¹ (million)	GDP ¹ (US\$bn)	GDP per capita ¹ (US\$)	Exports ² (US\$m)	Imports ² (US\$m)
Australia (1989)	7,692	20.5	743.7	36,016	105,877	118,593
Brunei Darussalam (1989)	6	0.4	11.5	30,415	5,711	1,618
Canada (1989)	9,971	32.0	1,273.1	39,135	360,136	314,436
Chile (1994)	757	16.2	104.4	8,570	39,544	32,321
China (1991)	9,561	1,307.6	2,554.2	1,944	762,327	660,222
Hong Kong, China (1991)	1	7	188.7	26,824	292,328	300,635
Indonesia (1989)	1,905	219.2	351.0	1,581	85,660	57,701
Japan (1989)	378	127.7	4,463.6	34,955	595,269	516,202
Korea (1989)	99	48.3	877.2	18,015	284,419	261,238
Malaysia (1989)	330	26.0	147.0	5,570	140,979	114,626
Mexico (1993)	1,958	105.3	811.3	7,594	213,686	221,269
New Zealand (1989)	271	4.1	101.8	24,566	21,738	24,541
Papua New Guinea (1993)	463	5.9	4.1	662	5,194	1,980
Peru (1998)	1,285	27.9	89.3	3,151	17,269	13,222
Philippines (1989)	300	84.2	116.9	1,361	41,007	44,052
Russia (1998)	17,075	142.7	975.3	6,861	241,244	98,577
Singapore (1989)	1	4.4	133.5	30,161	229,681	200,075
Chinese Taipei (1991)	36	22.8	355.5	15,472	188,963	181,743
Thailand (1989)	513	65.1	194.6	2,959	109,848	118,112
United States (1989)	9,364	296.6	13,262.1	44,315	905,978	1,673,455
Viet Nam (1998)	332	83.2	55.3	655	30,966	38,348

Area: Population: GDP (current prices): GDP per capita
Source: Economic Fact Sheets, <http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fs>

Exports and Imports
Source: The APEC Region Trade and Investment 2006

APEC is a unique forum operating on the basis of open dialogue and equal respect for the views of all participants. Decision making within APEC is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments; compliance is promoted through peer pressure and, when appropriate, supported by economic and technical cooperation. Through APEC, developing economies have as much say in

setting APEC's agenda as some of the largest economies in the world.

APEC's priorities and goals are set at annual meetings of APEC Economic Leaders and Ministers. Officials and experts in APEC member economies carry out projects and other work to meet these goals. This work is supported by a secretariat based in Singapore.

* The word 'economies' is used to describe APEC members because the APEC cooperative process is predominantly concerned with trade and economic issues, with members engaging with one another as economic entities.



APEC's Scope of Work



APEC works in three broad areas to meet its goals of *free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies* (These goals are referred to as the 'Bogor Goals'). The three areas in which APEC works are:

- *Trade and Investment Liberalization* - reducing and eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, and opening markets.
- *Business Facilitation* - reducing the costs of business transactions, improving access to trade information and bringing into line policy and business strategies to facilitate growth, and free and open trade.
- *Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)* - assisting APEC member economies to build the necessary capacities to take advantage of global trade and the New Economy.

Together, the outcomes assist APEC member economies to continue to grow and prosper. Tangible benefits are also delivered to the people of the region, through increased choices in the marketplace, cheaper goods and services and improved access to international markets.

Over the last few years new threats to the economic well-being of the region have emerged. The commercial impact of the terrorist attacks on member economies, regional epidemics and the devastating natural disasters, reinforces the nexus of trade and human security. APEC is meeting these new challenges through cooperative activities aimed at ensuring trade and economic development continues, while safeguarding the people and economies of the region.

Key Action Plans

Osaka Action Agenda

The Osaka Action Agenda mapped out a path to meet the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region by 2010/2020. It provides a framework through a mix of individual and collective steps in liberalization, facilitation and economic-technical cooperation, underpinned by policy dialogues. As part of this framework, General Principles have been defined for member economies as they proceed through

the APEC liberalization and facilitation process:

- Comprehensiveness
- Standstill
- WTO-consistency
- Simultaneous start, continuous process and differentiated timetables
- Comparability
- Flexibility
- Non-discrimination
- Cooperation
- Transparency

Individual and Collective Action Plans

APEC member economies report progress towards achieving free and open trade and investment goals through Individual and Collective Action Plans, submitted to APEC on an annual basis. Individual Action Plans

(IAPs) contain a chapter for each specified policy area and report the steps that each member is taking to fulfill the objectives set out in the Osaka Action Agenda for each action area.

As specified in the Osaka Action Agenda, reporting is based on the following issue areas:

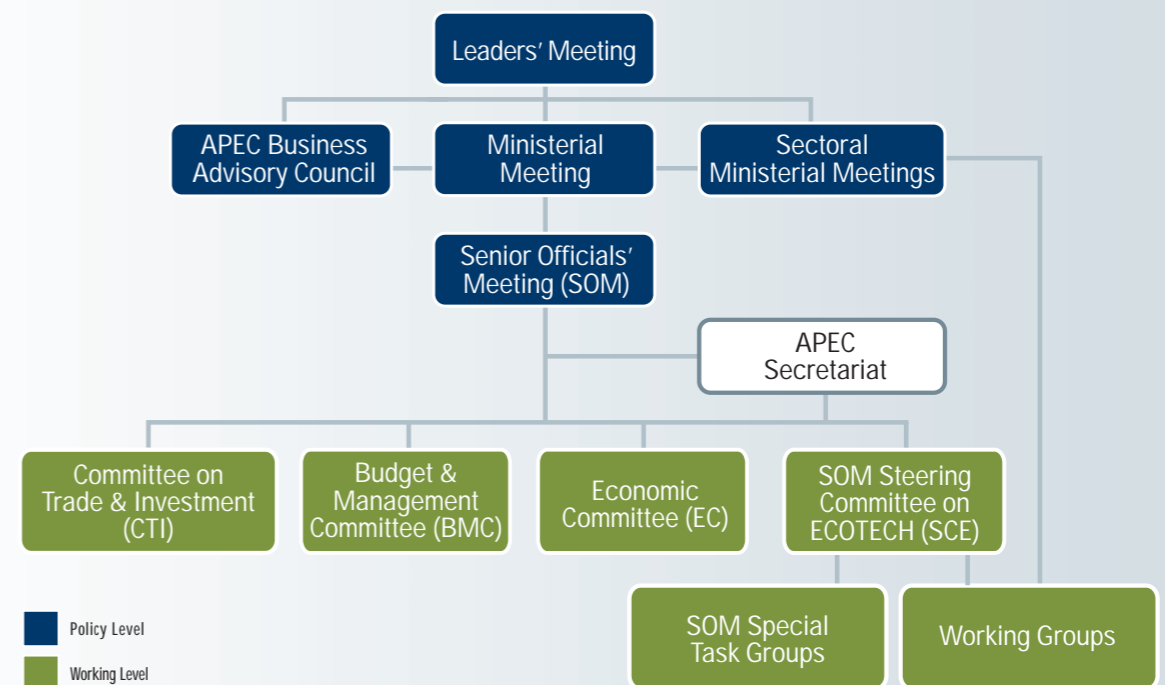
- Tariffs
- Competition Policy
- Non-tariff measures
- Government Procurement
- Services
- Deregulation/Regulatory Review
- Investment
- WTO Obligations (including Rules of Origin)
- Standards and Conformance
- Dispute Mediation
- Customs Procedures
- Mobility of Business People
- Intellectual Property
- Information Gathering and Analysis
- Strengthening Economic Legal Infrastructure

Each year, several APEC member economies have their IAPs reviewed. These Peer Reviews involve independent on-site research and analysis by experts. The economy under review fields comments and questions from other APEC members and the APEC Business Advisory Council. Collective Action Plans (CAPs) detail the joint actions of all APEC member economies in the same issue areas. CAPs are the compass by which APEC charts its course towards the ultimate objective of free trade and investment.

APEC member economies also work within a framework to meet the free and open trade goals. This framework comprises:

- Actions by individual APEC economies;
- Actions by APEC fora; and
- APEC actions related to multilateral fora.

APEC Organization Chart



Every year one of the 21 member economies plays host to APEC meetings and serves as the APEC Chair. The APEC host economy is responsible for chairing the annual Economic Leaders' Meeting, Ministerial Meetings, Senior Officials' Meetings, the APEC Business Advisory Council and the APEC Study Centers Consortium.



The APEC Secretariat



The APEC Secretariat is staffed by a team of program directors seconded from APEC member economies, professionals and permanent administrative staff. The Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director positions rotate annually and are filled by officers of Ambassadorial rank from the current and incoming host economy, respectively.

- ▶ 2007 Executive Director, Ambassador Colin Heseltine
- ◀ 2006 Executive Director, Ambassador Tran Trong Toan



The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Certification. This recognizes the continuous efforts made by the APEC Secretariat to provide high quality administrative and support activities. The APEC Secretariat is the first international trade-related secretariat to attain ISO certification.

APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognizes that strong and vibrant economies are not built by governments alone, but by partnerships between governments and key stakeholders, including the business sector, industry, academia, policy and research institutions, and interest groups within the community.

APEC member economies recognize that business drives the economies of the region and involves business at all levels of the APEC process. At the highest level, APEC Economic Leaders communicate through annual meetings with the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC). ABAC comprises high-level business people from all 21 APEC member economies.

Through the APEC Study Centers (ASC) Consortium, APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. Amongst a range of key activities, the ASC Consortium facilitates cultural and intellectual exchanges in the Asia-Pacific region and assists the APEC process by undertaking advanced, collaborative interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research from an independent and long-term perspective. There are ASCs in 19 APEC member economies, comprising some 100 universities, research centers and centers of academic excellence across the APEC region.

On the Web

Detailed information on APEC's programs and activities can be found on the APEC Secretariat website, www.apec.org

The APEC Secretariat - www.apec.org

The website contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs and an APEC event calendar and links to key APEC websites.

Viet Nam 2006 Website - www.apec2006.vn

The website provides information about the meetings and outcomes for APEC Viet Nam 2006.

Australia 2007 Website - www.apec2007.org

The web site provides information about the objectives for APEC Australia as well and a schedule of meetings in 2007.

Publications

Key APEC Documents 2006 outlines the key policy decisions and initiatives endorsed by Leaders and Ministers, which provide the direction for on-going APEC work. Also available in this publication are the 2006 APEC Leaders' Declaration and Statements from Ministerial Meetings.

2006 APEC Economic Policy Report introduces structural reform and the regional changes that have been acting as drivers for the new structural reform focus of the Economic Committee (EC). The report also discusses how a whole-of-government approach can increase the effectiveness, support, and potential success of a structural reform program and explores how economies may address the short term costs that reforms may generate by displaying commitment to implementing reforms across the whole of government and by transparently communicating the longer term benefits to the population.

2006 Annual Report to Ministers - APEC Committee on Trade and Investment outlines the accomplishments of the CTI over the last 12 months and recommendations in the key priority areas of APEC's trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda.

2006 APEC SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH) contains information on ECOTECH activities carried out by APEC fora and reports on the implementation of key ECOTECH initiatives. SCE's ECOTECH priorities include - Integration into the Global Economy, Counter-terrorism Capacity Building, Development of Knowledge-Based Economies, and Addressing the Social Dimensions of Globalization.

APEC Economic Committee's Study on Socio-Economic Disparity in the APEC Region clarifies the concepts of socio-economic disparity, and discusses the current status of the issue in APEC member economies by collating ongoing activities in APEC aimed at addressing socio-economic disparity. Further, the study recommends several policy tools to tackle socio-economic disparity and evaluates the use of those tools in action. Because socio-economic disparity is a cross-cutting issue that is relevant to many areas of APEC's policy agenda, the study shares APEC member economies' experiences in addressing the problem.

Ordering Publications

APEC publications can be downloaded free of charge from the APEC Secretariat website, www.apec.org or hard copy publications can be purchased from APEC. Order by any of the following:

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