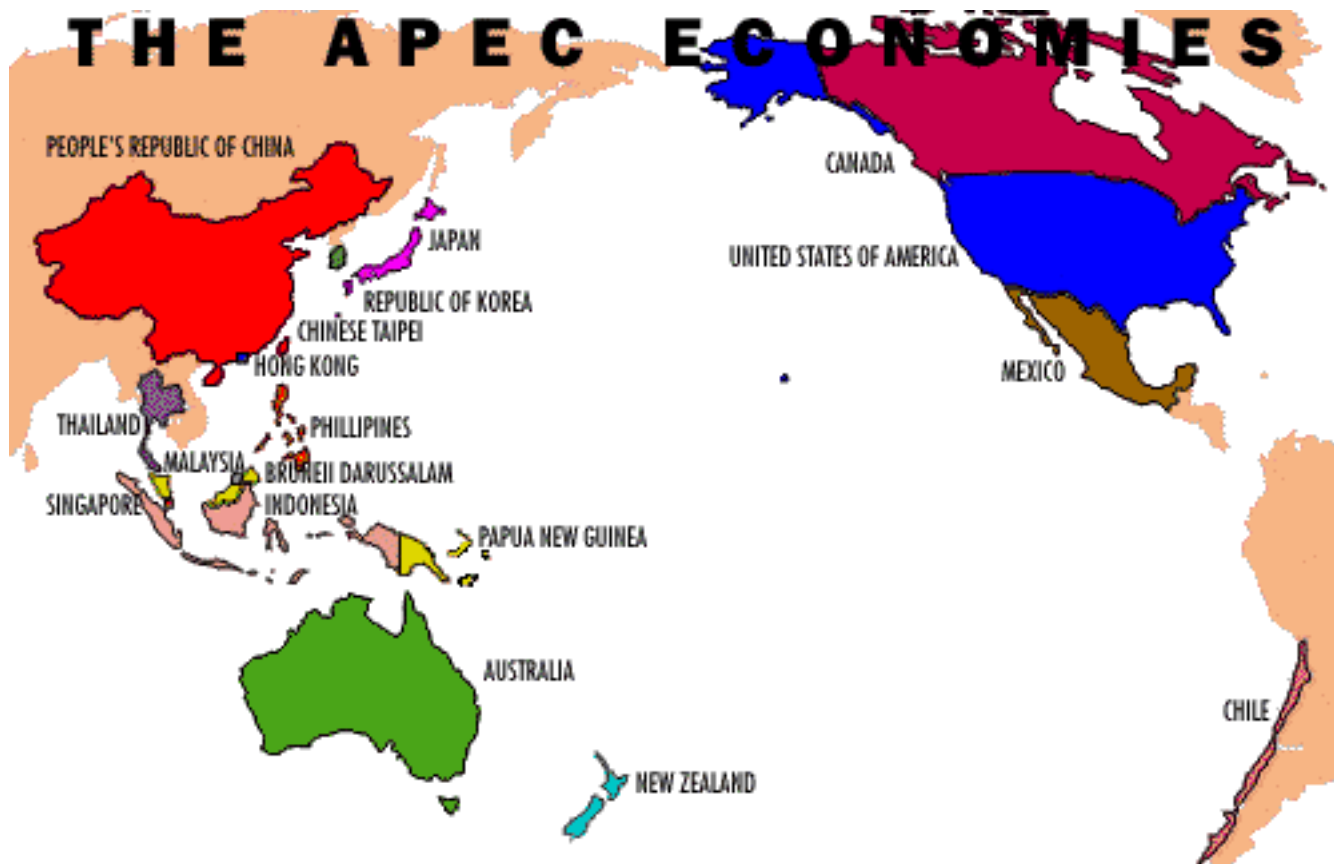


# ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

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# History

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was formed in 1989 in [Canberra Ministerial Meeting](#) in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies. Begun as an informal dialogue group with limited participation, APEC has since become the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and practical economic cooperation. Its goal is to advance Asia-Pacific economic dynamism and sense of community. The Asia-Pacific is experiencing the most striking economic growth in the world. It is a major contributor to global prosperity and stability. Today, APEC includes all the major economies of the region and the most dynamic, fastest growing economies in the world. APEC's 18 member economies had a combined Gross Domestic Product of over US\$13 trillion in 1995,

approximately 55 percent of total world income and 46 percent of global trade.

## Objectives

The current member economies represent the rich diversity of the region as well as differing levels of economic growth. Despite such differences there is a growing sense of common purpose and cooperation aimed at sustained regional and world growth. In the 1991 Seoul APEC Declaration, APEC members agreed on specific objectives:

- to sustain the growth and development of the region for the common good of its peoples and, in this way, to contribute to the growth and development of the world economy;
- to enhance the positive gains, both for the region and the world economy, resulting from increasing economic interdependence, to include encouraging the flow of goods, services, capital, and technology;
- to develop and strengthen the open multilateral trading system in the interest of Asia-Pacific and all other economies; and
- to reduce barriers to trade in goods and services among participants in a manner consistent with GATT principles, where applicable, and without detriment to other economies.

The Declaration also recognized "the important contribution of the private sector to the dynamism of APEC economies". The ministers committed APEC "to enhance and promote the role of the private sector and the application of free market principles in maximizing the benefits of regional cooperation."

The Seoul Declaration set forth a commitment among APEC ministers to meet annually and hold informal discussions to strengthen and reaffirm the agreed objectives, and to realize the goals of free and open trade and investment in the region. The series of annual economic leaders' informal meetings began in 1993.

On 20 November 1993, APEC economic leaders, hosted by U.S. President Clinton, met for the first time at Blake Island, Seattle, Washington to hold informal discussions. Their vision was for an Asia-Pacific that harnesses the energy of its diverse economies, strengthens cooperation, and promotes prosperity, in which the spirit of openness and partnership deepens and dynamic growth continues, contributing to an expanding world economy and supporting an open international trading system. They envisioned continued reduction of trade and investment barriers so that trade expands within the region and with the world, and goods, services, capital, and investment flow freely among APEC economies. People in APEC economies would share the benefits of economic growth through higher incomes, high skilled and high paying jobs and increased mobility. Improved education and training would produce rising literacy rates, provide the skills for maintaining economic growth and encourage the sharing of ideas that contribute to the arts and sciences. Advances in telecommunications would shrink time and distance barriers in the region and link APEC economies so that goods and people move quickly and efficiently. Finally, they envisioned an Asia-Pacific in which the environment is improved as APEC economies protect the quality of air, water, and green spaces and manage energy sources and renewable resources to ensure sustainable growth and provide a more secure future

On 15 November 1994, Indonesian President Soeharto hosted the second meeting of APEC economic

leaders who discussed where the economies of the region need to go in the next 25 years. In their Declaration of Common Resolve, the economic leaders agreed to achieve the goal of free and open trade and investment in the region no later than 2010 for the industrialized economies and 2020 for developing economies. The economic leaders further agreed to narrow the gap in the stages of development among Asia-Pacific economies. To this end, APEC will provide opportunities for developing economies to increase further their economic growth and level of development consistent with sustainable growth, equitable development, and member economy stability.

In Osaka on 19 November 1995, APEC economic leaders initiated the work of translating the Blake Island vision and the Bogor goals into reality. They adopted the Osaka Action Agenda, a blueprint for implementing their commitment to free and open trade and investment, business facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation. Part I of the Action Agenda deals with trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. Part II deals with economic and technical cooperation in areas such as energy and transportation, infrastructure, small and medium enterprises, and agricultural technology. A Trade and Investment Liberalization & Facilitation (TILF) Special Account was established under the APEC Central Fund for APEC projects that support implementation of the Osaka Action Agenda.

The Manila Action Plan for APEC (MAPA), adopted by economic leaders on 25 November 1996, includes the individual and collective action plans and progress reports on joint activities of all APEC economies to achieve the Bogor objectives of free and open trade and investment in the APEC region by 2010 and 2020, and joint activities among members under Part II of the Osaka Action Agenda. MAPA revolves around six themes: greater market access in goods; enhanced market access in services; an open investment regime; reduced business costs; an open and efficient infrastructure sector, and strengthened economic and technical cooperation. Current joint activities include the APEC Educational Network (EduNet), the Asia-Pacific Energy Research Center (APEREC), the APEC Labor Market Information Network (LMI), and the Trade and Investment Data Database. Economic leaders further instructed that high priority be given to the following themes in economic and technical cooperation in six areas: developing human capital; fostering safe and efficient capital markets; strengthening economic infrastructure; harnessing technologies of the future; promoting environmentally sustainable growth; and encouraging the growth of small and medium enterprises.

## **APEC priorities in 1997**

In Subic, APEC economic leaders directed ministers to begin implementation of the MAPA on 1 January 1997, with the first annual review to take place at the 1997 APEC Ministerial Meeting in Vancouver. Goals for APEC in 1997 include full implementation and improvement of the Individual Action Plans for trade and investment liberalization, update of Collective Action Plans, recommendations on sectors for early voluntary liberalization, and further APEC support for the programs of the World Trade Organization as a means to strengthen the multilateral system. Emphasis is also being placed on practical APEC measures leading to a better business environment, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, developed in cooperation with the business/private sector. As directed by economic leaders in Subic, ministers have agreed to intensify work on trade facilitation, including simplifying customs clearance procedures, providing better information on government procurement and investment regimes, and alignment of member economy standards with international standards in priority areas.

APEC discussions throughout 1997 in key issues of cooperation such as transportation, energy, and

**environmental protection will help develop an integrated framework for infrastructure development in the region as mandated by economic leaders.**

**APEC's goals of sustainable growth and equitable development will also be advanced in 1997 through implementation of the APEC Framework for Economic Development Cooperation. Economic leaders' instructions to involve youth and women in APEC's economic and technical cooperation agenda will also be addressed in 1997, as part of efforts to better involve the broader public. APEC's work on sustainability will be pursued through a framework integrating social and environmental considerations into economic decision making, including the interim report to economic leaders on the linkages among economic development, population, food and energy supplies, and the environment.**

**Business has been the primary contributor to the explosive growth in the Asia-Pacific region. The continuing globalization of business means that the APEC economies must develop region-wide practices and policies to ease the free flow of goods, services, investment and capital within the region. APEC aims to achieve concrete and pragmatic results which will benefit business, contribute to increased income and create jobs in the region.**

**A major APEC goal is to increase involvement by business in APEC. Business expertise and resources can help APEC achieve its objectives and business is a key constituency for APEC both regionally and in individual member economies. APEC economic leaders receive business sector advice from the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) which was established in 1996. Businesses are participating in many of APEC's working groups to help shape the policy dialogue in partnership with member economy officials.**

## **Organization and Process**

**APEC operates by consensus. In 1991, members committed themselves to conducting their activities and work programs on the basis of open dialogue with equal respect for the views of all participants.**

**The APEC Chair, which rotates annually among all members, is responsible for hosting the annual ministerial meeting of foreign and economic ministers. At the 1989 Canberra Ministerial Meeting, it was agreed that it would be appropriate that every alternate ministerial meeting be held in an ASEAN economy. Senior Officials Meetings (SOM) are held regularly prior to every ministerial meeting. APEC senior officials make recommendations to the Ministers and carry out their decisions. They oversee and coordinate, with approval from ministers, the budgets and work programs of the committees and working groups. At the 1992 Bangkok Ministerial Meeting, APEC ministers agreed to establish a permanent APEC secretariat in Singapore. They approved a budget to support the Secretariat and the work programs of APEC's committees and working groups. At the 1993 APEC Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, ministers agreed to establish a permanent Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). A Budget and Administrative Committee (BAC) was also established to handle APEC's increasingly complex budget and administrative issues. Ministers in Jakarta in 1994 established an Economic Committee and a Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). In Osaka in November 1995, ministers agreed to establish the APEC Business Advisory Council. In Manila in 1996, ministers adopted the MAPA and the Declaration on an APEC Framework for Strengthening Economic Cooperation and Development. The latter identifies the themes, specific goals and guiding principles that will govern the nature and character of a strengthened economic and technical cooperation towards an Asia-Pacific community.**

**APEC member economies have hosted a number of other ministerial meetings for ministers of education, energy, environment and sustainable development, finance, human resources development, regional science and technology cooperation, small and medium enterprises, telecommunications and information industry, trade, and transportation.**

**In November 1995 in Osaka, APEC economic leaders established a permanent senior business advisory council, composed of up to three business people from each of APEC's eighteen member economies, to provide advice on implementation of the Osaka Action Agenda and on other specific business sector priorities. In its first report in November 1996, APEC means business: Building prosperity for our community, ABAC recommended the removal of certain impediments to cross-border flows of goods, capital and business people, enhanced protection for foreign investors, expanded private investment in infrastructure projects, an improved environment for small and medium-sized enterprises, and private sector participation in economic and technical cooperation. In November 1996, ABAC members met with APEC economic leaders in Manila to discuss these recommendations. In 1997, ABAC will work on ways to implement the 1996 recommendations and will continue to assess APEC's commitments in the MAPA to liberalize trade and investment. ABAC's committees cover cross-border flows; finance/investment/infrastructure issues; economic and technical cooperation; and small and medium-sized enterprises. APEC will respond to the 1996 recommendations of ABAC at the Vancouver meetings, with a focus on the flagship recommendations identified for action in the 1996 ABAC report. ABAC members will meet again with APEC ministers and economic leaders in November 1997 in Vancouver.**

**ABAC was preceded by the Pacific Business Forum (PBF), which economic leaders set up in 1993 "to identify issues APEC should address to facilitate regional trade and investment and encourage the further development of business networks throughout the region." The PBF prepared two reports for economic leaders: A Business Blueprint for APEC: Strategies for Growth and Common Prosperity (1994) and The Osaka Action Plan: Roadmap to Realizing the APEC Vision (1995). Likewise, in 1992, APEC ministers set up an independent, non-governmental Eminent Persons Group (EPG, 1993-1995) to develop a vision for the region as well as to recommend how to achieve and implement the vision. The EPG published three reports: A Vision for APEC: Towards an Asia-Pacific Economic Community (1993), Achieving the APEC Vision: Free and Open Trade in the Asia Pacific Region (1994), and Implementing the APEC Vision (1995).**

**At each year's Ministerial Meeting, members define and fund work programs for APEC's three committees, ad hoc policy level group, ten working groups, and other APEC fora. Committees are working on issues such as trade and investment facilitation and liberalization, providing information and analysis on economic trends, and APEC administration and budget issues. Working groups promote practical economic and technical cooperation in areas such as infrastructure rationalization, technology flow, education and training, environmentally sound development and protection of scarce resources. Much of their work in 1997 will be to implement individual and collective action plans and joint activities in response to the 1995 Osaka Action Agenda and the 1996 MAPA. APEC members have used APEC fora to build practical links between their official representatives, business sectors, academic communities and, lately, NGOs/civil society.**

## **Committees**

**The Committee on Trade and Investment: In 1993, APEC ministers adopted a Declaration on a Trade**

and Investment Framework to increase economic activity and facilitate the flow of goods and services among member economies. Based on the Declaration, ministers formed the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI). The committee's aims are to create an APEC perspective on trade and investment issues and to pursue liberalization and facilitation initiatives. The CTI is responsible to senior officials for coordinating APEC's work on trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. The CTI is one of the key APEC organs in terms of implementing the liberalization and facilitation components of the Osaka Action Agenda, including work on Tariffs, Non-tariff Measures, Services, Deregulation, Dispute Mediation, Uruguay Round implementation, Investment, Customs Procedures, Standards and Conformance, Mobility of Business People, Intellectual Property Rights, Competition Policy, Government Procurement and Rules of Origin. The current CTI chair is New Zealand.

The Economic Committee was established in November 1994 when APEC ministers agreed to transform the Ad Hoc Group on Economic Trends and Issues into a formal committee. The Committee's main role is to analyze economic trends and to undertake research studies on specific economic issues, particularly cross-cutting issues. Each year the Committee prepares a medium-term economic outlook for the region, which in 1997 will focus on the theme of "Open Regionalism". The Committee's 1997 research program includes work on the economic impact of trade liberalization; the impact of investment rule-making and liberalization; sub-regionalism's significance and impact on APEC; economic instruments for environmental protection; intra-regional migration; the information society; and cost and productivity trends and patterns of specialization in APEC. Implementation of APEC's work program on economic infrastructure is the responsibility of the Economic Committee. This work aims to facilitate greater private sector investment in the region's infrastructure by encouraging the removal of impediments and creating a more predictable, transparent investment environment. An Action Program of cooperative activities is being undertaken by the Infrastructure Workshop, chaired by Indonesia. A feature of the program is the creation of an annual dialogue session with the business/private sector, to be held in Los Cabos, Mexico in 1997. The Committee is also addressing the impact of expanding population and economic growth on food, energy and the environment and, as part of this activity, oversees the work of the Task Force on Food. The current EC Chair is Canada.

The Budget and Administrative Committee (BAC) advises APEC senior officials on budgetary, administrative and managerial issues. It assesses and makes recommendations on the budget structure, considers budget requests, drafts the annual APEC budget and examines all questions relating to the APEC budget and budgetary process. In addition, it is empowered by the senior officials to monitor and evaluate the operations and overall performance of working groups and make recommendations to the Senior Officials Meeting for improved efficiency and effectiveness. The BAC holds two regular meetings in a year. In 1997, Japan chairs the BAC. Apart from its ongoing examination of financial accounts and funding requests, the BAC's work in 1997 includes a review of the document classification system, the adoption of a comprehensive guidebook on the financial procedures for projects seeking APEC funding, and examination of the strategy for APEC publications.

The Ad Hoc Policy Level Group on Small and Medium Enterprises (PLGSME), established in 1995, oversees activities for SMEs across all APEC groups. There is a consensus in APEC that free trade and economic globalization have implications, challenges, and opportunities for SMEs. Since 1995, the group has organized workshops. In 1996, the workshop authorized Chinese Taipei to publish the APEC Directory of Support Organizations for Small and Medium Enterprises. As part of its action program, five major priorities are identified for the development of SMEs: human resources development; information access; technology and technology sharing; financing; and market access. The third meeting

of ministers in charge of SMEs was held in the Philippines in September 1996, and on that occasion the APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training for Small and Medium Enterprise was inaugurated in Los Ba-os, Laguna, Philippines. The fourth ministerial meeting will be hosted by Canada in September 1997.

The Energy Working Group began in 1990 and has developed the energy component of APEC's Action Agenda. A major focus of the Group over the next two years will be to:

- Improve regional energy security through the provision by the newly established Asia Pacific Energy Research Center of high quality information on regional energy supply and demand trends;
- Introduce reforms to mobilize business investment in power sector infrastructure;
- Develop a program of work to promote the uptake of environmentally sound energy technologies and processes; and
- Develop proposals for establishing a basis on which mutual acceptance of accredited test facilities and standard test results obtained at these facilities can be achieved.

A second meeting of Energy Ministers will be held in Canada in August 1997.

The Fisheries Working Group, established in 1991, aims to maximize the economic benefits and sustainability of fisheries resources for all APEC members. Its work complements and contributes to the work of other international and regional fisheries organisations in the Pacific and is related to compliance issues and co-ordination based on member economy inspection systems, standards, and other requirements aimed at improved seafood inspection regimes in APEC member economies. Since 1996, the working group has been conducting a four-year study of fisheries sector trade and investment liberalization in the areas of tariffs, non-tariff measures, investment measures, and subsidies. The group will also implement a project entitled "APEC markets for airshipped live and fresh food fish" and conduct a workshop addressing destructive fishing techniques with a focus on cyanide fishing in an effort to conserve natural resources and protect the marine environment.

The Human Resources Development Working Group, established in 1990, has five subgroups or networks. The Business Management Network (BMN) focuses on executive education and development and management for organizational change; the Human Resources in Industrial Technology Network (HURDIT) is involved in technical and professional standards and identification of skill shortages; the Network for Economic Development Management (NEDM) looks at the regional labor market, small and medium enterprises, environment, gender and equity issues and the use of human resources in economic development; the Education Forum (EDFOR) concentrates on the performance of education systems in preparing people for a rapidly changing labor market; and the Labor Market Information Group (LMI) serves as a forum for the exchange of information on labor market trends in APEC. The First APEC HRD Ministerial Meeting in Manila, January 1996, called upon the working group to develop plans to analyze the regional labor market, manage and strengthen SMEs, facilitate mobility of persons, liberalize and facilitate trade in services, and implement executive education. The Second APEC HRD Ministerial Meeting will be held in Seoul on 25-26 September 1997. The working group, which is engaged in more than 80 projects, has three cross-cutting themes: SMEs, Sustainable Development and Lifelong Learning. The recent HRD working group meeting, held in Sydney on 20-23 January 1997, formulated a Medium Term Strategic Priorities and its accompanying work plan and agreed to undertake an organizational review.

**The APEC Study Centers have established a network of institutions of higher education and advanced research which:**

- 1. encourage advanced, collaborative, policy-relevant research on issues important to APEC, including an ongoing assessment of the "APEC process" itself and an evaluation of APEC activities in a regional and global context,**
- 2. facilitate exchanges of students and faculty,**
- 3. provide opportunities for mutually beneficial training, and**
- 4. promote greater knowledge of member economies and APEC through courses and public education activities.**

**Since the Blake Island Meeting, most APEC economies have identified an educational institution or consortium as their officially designated APEC Study Center. It was agreed by the APEC members that the study center concept should be implemented flexibly. APEC members participate voluntarily. Each Study Center is responsible for managing its individual contribution, including program funding. The Study Centers bring an analytical rigor and academic strength to the APEC process and help to promote dialogue between government policy makers and the academic community. Furthermore, they promote the study of regional economic issues and the setting up of a network of research institutions and scholars working on APEC themes throughout the region.**

**The Industrial Science and Technology Working Group, set up in 1990, has six priority areas of cooperation laid out in the Osaka Action Agenda: improved flow of information and technology, improved researcher exchange and HRD in industrial science and technology, facilitation of joint research projects, improved transparency of regulatory frameworks, contribution to sustainable development, and enhanced policy dialogue and review. The working group has completed ten projects and is now engaged in about forty projects. It has held seminars, workshops and symposia, including the first APEC Technomart in Taejon in May 1995. The working group supported the First and Second APEC Ministers' Conferences on Regional Science and Technology Cooperation held in Beijing in October 1995 and in Seoul in November 1996 respectively. The working group holds two regular meetings a year.**

**The Marine Resource Conservation Working Group promotes initiatives among APEC member economies to protect the marine environment and resources, and ensures continuing socio-economic benefits by maintaining the quality of the marine environment. A five-year follow-up program on the management of red tide and harmful algal blooms in the APEC region is being implemented beginning in 1996. The working group is also conducting follow-up programs to the UNCED Ocean Chapter in the Region. A workshop was held in 1996 to share ideas and insights on integrated coastal zone management approaches for semi-closed bays. As the result of the integrated coastal zone management project, a publication containing information on land-based sources of pollution in member economies will be published in 1997. The project on the Ocean Model and Information System for the APEC Region will be implemented from 1997 to 2002 and a workshop is scheduled for late 1997 to address incidence and impacts of destruction, legislative and regulatory affairs, promotion of environmentally friendly fishing practices, and protection of coral reef environments. The group is also preparing an Action Plan for Sustainability of the Marine Environment within APEC to be considered by the APEC Environment Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development.**

**The Telecommunications Working Group was formed in 1990 to address human resource**



development, technology transfer and regional cooperation, opportunities for on-site visits/observerships/fellowships, and telecommunications standardization. The 1995 Seoul Declaration on an Asia Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII), adopted at the first APEC Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information, contains ten core principles aimed at facilitating trade and investment. In 1996, the working group set up steering groups for Liberalization, Business Facilitation, Development Cooperation, and Human Resources Development. These four subgroups are developing a telecommunications action plan and a series of collective actions for trade and investment liberalization in the sector on areas such as conformance to the Guidelines for Trade in International Value Added Network Services (IVANS), and finalization by 1997 of a model mutual recognition arrangement for trade in telecommunications equipment. The Second Ministerial Meeting took place in September 1996. Ministers adopted the Gold Coast Declaration containing a Program for Action to further guide APEC activities in the sector, in which they also recognized a Reference List of Elements of a Fully Liberalized Telecommunication Sector - adopted by the working group - as representing elements expected to be present in each economy by or before the 2010/2020 Bogor timetable.

The Tourism Working Group plans to achieve long-term environmental and social sustainability of the tourism industry and its economic impact, through human resources development, an enlarged role for the business/private sector in policy formulation, removing barriers to tourism movement and investment by liberalizing trade in services associated with tourism, and using tourism as a means to achieve sustainable economic development and mutual understanding among APEC member economies. It has also studied tourism and environment issues to highlight the diversity of circumstances and best practices among APEC economies between tourism growth, and the natural and cultural environments. The group has published a learning package covering key tourism management and marketing issues for tourism public administrators. It is studying impediments to tourism growth in the region as a step towards identifying challenges to be addressed in building an efficient infrastructure sector that would benefit the development of the tourism sector. The working group, which already benefits from the participation as guests by the World Tourism Organization, the Pacific Asia Travel Association and the World Travel Tourism Council, is building links with the business/private sector aiming to work together on group activities.

The Trade and Investment Data Review Working Group started in 1990. The working group has concentrated on improving the comparability of published data of merchandise trade and has started work on trade in services and international investment data among member economies in order to minimize the discrepancies in merchandise and services trade statistics and investment flows data. The working group began developing the APEC database called TIDDB, initially with merchandise trade data and then with services trade and international investment data. In the process of developing its own databases, the working group has reviewed the international trade data holdings of other international organizations to avoid duplication. The working group has completed the establishment of the TIDDB system, the server of which is now installed in the APEC Secretariat. The working group has run workshops to provide experts with the technical expertise they need for the current projects.

The Trade Promotion Working Group. Trade promotion has been for APEC a significant area for regional economic cooperation. The group has held eight meetings since it first met in Seoul in June 1990. Its work centers on trade promotion activities, trade financing, trade skills and training, trade information, and business sector participation. The working group has provided the business community with information through APEC-Net and publication of the APEC Trade-Show Directory. It has held a venture capital workshop and a seminar on a credit guarantee system to exchange views on trade

financing. It demonstrates its interest in business engagement through the APEC International Trade Fair and the Asia-Pacific Business Network and its meeting back-to-back with the meetings of the APEC Trade Promotion Organization. The working group will hold the second APEC Trade Fair in June 1997. The working group is now focusing its efforts to facilitate strategic business alliances among enterprises in the APEC region.

**The Transportation Working Group.** The vast distances which characterize the Asia-Pacific region and the dynamic growth of its economies underscore the importance of adequate transportation to guarantee further development. The Transportation Working Group has brought public sector transportation experts together with the business sector to increase the efficiency of the regional transportation system. A very important effort has been going on for several years to identify transportation congestion points in the region. This project will enhance knowledge about common problems in the transportation sector and best practices to solve them. The group has also been addressing issues like efficient and safe services, increasing demand and the urgency for optimization on the use of technical systems. It has published surveys of transportation systems and directories of policy institutions and transportation research centers in Asia-Pacific. Transportation ministers first met in Washington, D.C. in June 1995 and will meet again in Victoria, B.C., Canada in June 1997.

By strengthening agricultural technical cooperation, APEC economies are seeking to enhance the capability of agriculture and its related industries to contribute to economic growth and social well-being. The inaugural meeting of Agricultural Technical Cooperation experts (ATC) was held in Taipei in June 1995. At that meeting, ATC experts agreed on a work program for agricultural technical cooperation. The areas identified for cooperation were: conservation and utilization of plant and animal genetic resources; research, development and extension of agricultural biotechnology; marketing, processing and distribution of agricultural products; plant and animal quarantine and pest management; cooperative development of an agricultural finance system; and agricultural technology transfer and training. Subsequently, sustainable agriculture was identified as an additional area for technical cooperation. At the second ATC meeting in Canberra in May 1996, a framework for undertaking these cooperative activities was developed, and the next meeting will review the progress made in implementing the work program. In October 1996, the importance of the work on agricultural technical cooperation was recognised with the establishment of the ATC Experts' Group as a formal APEC body with an ongoing role.

At Blake Island in 1993, economic leaders gave a call to action to APEC members to manage their resources in such a way as to ensure that growth takes sustainability into consideration. APEC addresses environment/sustainable development as a key cross-cutting issue relevant to all APEC fora and many APEC activities. APEC ministers responsible for the environment are concerned with the broad issue of sustainable development for the region. The Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development in Manila in 1996 moved the issue forward by developing an action program integrating economic and environmental considerations. In Subic, economic leaders endorsed this initial focus on three sustainable development priority issues of Sustainable Cities, Cleaner Production/Clean Technology, and Sustainability of the Marine Environment. At the Environment Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development in Toronto on 9-11 June 1997, ministers will determine specific action items to further advance each of these themes in their ongoing efforts to promote sustainable development, as well as provide environmental input to the 1995 economic leaders' initiative on the Impact of Expanding Population and Economic Growth on Food, Energy and the Environment (FEEEP). APEC senior officials annually review sustainable development work within APEC to promote and coordinate

activities in this area.

For more information, visit APEC home page: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/>

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