

APEC

Outcomes & Outlook

2009 • 2010



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC Outcomes & Outlook

2009 • 2010

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Dear Stakeholders,

APEC 2009, hosted by Singapore, commenced against a backdrop of deepening global recession but ended more positively with signs of emerging recovery. It was a year in which individual economies undertook massive public intervention to restore confidence and lift trade and economic activity; but it was also a year that saw successful collaborative action on a regional and a global scale.

The recession, which manifested as the steepest drop in global activity and trade since World War II, engendered an urgency in APEC to ameliorate the situation. It also underscored the contribution APEC could make to recovery by continuing to advance its free trade and investment agenda. Accordingly, in 2009 APEC was squarely focused on what it could do to stem the crisis and restore economic growth.

APEC Leaders started the year with a commitment to forsake protectionism, and high intensity protection was avoided despite earlier concerns to the contrary. APEC's peer reviews of the trade, fiscal and monetary measures member economies had implemented in response to the crisis played a role in this outcome. There is also agreement that the reviews, based on collaboration between APEC and the World Trade Organisation, will continue into 2010 to increase transparency to protect against backsliding.

The importance of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations to a global economic recovery remained top of the agenda. APEC Leaders therefore stated in their 2009 Declaration that they would use all possible avenues to secure convergence on a final package and instructed APEC Ministers to work closely to achieve an ambitious and balanced conclusion to Doha in 2010.

APEC also implemented its own agenda of practical steps to deliver the necessary economic stimulus. The focus was on accelerating regional integration by reducing barriers to trade and investment at, behind and across borders. Concrete initiatives, including those that allow traders to self-certify a product's origin and those that remove the chokepoints in supply chains, should ensure that

businesses will find it easier and cheaper to do business in the region going forward.

APEC's 2010 agenda builds on the emerging recovery and seeks to focus attention on how best to accelerate and consolidate real and sustainable economic growth.

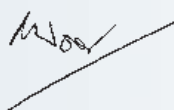
Japan has assumed the mantle of 2010 host economy under the theme "Change and Action". The intention is to formulate new growth strategies that: support more balanced growth within and across economies; achieve greater inclusiveness in society; address the challenges of environmental and energy sustainability; and seek to raise the region's growth potential through innovation and a knowledge-based economy.

This attention to growth and its drivers assumes even greater importance at a time of enormous strain on public funds in many economies. Restoration of solid growth within APEC and globally will assist towards restoring a better balance in public and private sector finances. At the same time, economies will need to avoid the risks of withdrawing stimulatory measures prematurely and adversely affecting domestic demand.

APEC's most significant existing milestone will also be assessed this year. 2010 is the target year for the achievement, by industrialised economies, of the Bogor Goals of free and open trade in the region. Four developing economies have volunteered to join APEC's five industrialised members for a 2010 assessment. While APEC is assessing performance against past goals, discussions will also be initiated on a new post-2010 vision, including consideration of possible pathways towards a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

As the first fixed-term Executive Director to lead the APEC Secretariat, I look forward to providing my support to Members, and to the Secretariat playing an effective role in implementing agreed actions that will deliver prosperity to the people of the Asia-Pacific.

Yours sincerely,



Muhamad Noor
Executive Director
APEC Secretariat



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APEC 2009 Singapore

Sustaining Growth, Connecting the Region

APEC comprises 21 member economies from the Asia-Pacific region. It is home to more than 2.7 billion people and represents approximately 53 percent of world GDP and 43 percent of world trade. During 2009, Singapore hosted more than 120 APEC meetings which focused on restoring economic growth and prosperity for the region.

Sustaining Growth, Connecting the Region

The APEC 2009 meetings chaired by Singapore took place amidst a challenging economic environment. Slipping into the worst recession in the last 30 years at the start of 2009, the global economy resumed a modest recovery at year-end. Against this backdrop, the APEC 2009 agenda - under the theme of “Sustaining Growth, Connecting the Region” - was focused on three key objectives: tackling the crisis, accelerating regional economic integration and positioning the Asia-Pacific for strong long-term recovery. With APEC turning 20 in 2009, important steps were also taken to strengthen APEC as an institution, including the appointment of its first fixed-term Executive Director.

I. Addressing the Crisis

As a region heavily reliant on trade, APEC economies’ response to the crisis was focused on mitigating the crisis’ impact on trade flows; mainly by ensuring that trade finance did not dry up, redoubling efforts to keep protectionism in check and strengthening the multilateral trading system.

Monitoring Trade Finance

For the first time in APEC’s history, Senior Officials from both the Trade and Finance tracks were brought together in two meetings - the Senior Officials’ Meeting- Senior Finance Officials’ Meeting (SOM-SFOM) Dialogue in February 2009 and the SOM-SFOM Symposium in July 2009 - to discuss the challenges of trade financing and to exchange information on the responses taken by different economies. In addition, two trade finance surveys were conducted in June/July and October/November 2009 to generate a snapshot of the trade financing situation across APEC economies and to keep conditions under review. The results of the two surveys were discussed by Senior Officials. The second survey found that the trade financing situation in APEC economies had generally improved since June/July 2009, and that economies expected conditions to ease further over the following six months.

Combating Protectionism

To tackle the threat of protectionism to economic recovery APEC economies renewed their commitment, made in Peru in 2008, to refrain from raising new barriers to trade and investment, and pledged to extend this commitment to the end of 2010, and beyond if necessary. They also pledged to exercise maximum restraint in implementing measures that might have protectionist effects even if they may be considered WTO-consistent, and to promptly rectify any such measures implemented.

Notably, at the Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting held in Singapore in July 2009, APEC economies conducted their first peer review of the trade, fiscal and monetary measures they had implemented in response to the crisis based on inputs from the WTO and the APEC Business Advisory Council. This was followed by another review at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in November. APEC Leaders have agreed to continue with the bi-annual reviews. The reviews will be coordinated by the APEC Secretariat and based on the WTO Director-General’s regular reports to the Trade Policy Review Board, as well as reports by other relevant multilateral organisations. They will reinforce the WTO’s own monitoring mechanism and serve as another bulwark against protectionist pressures in response to the crisis.

Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System

Recognising that the most effective defence against protectionism and the strongest boost to economic recovery is the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations, APEC economies displayed strong political commitment for an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Round in 2010. To that end, APEC Leaders agreed to exercise pragmatism and flexibility and to use all possible avenues-bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral-to narrow the negotiating gaps and secure convergence on a final package. APEC Leaders also called on Ministers to assess the situation no later than early 2010.

Given the complementary agendas on trade, APEC and the WTO have also agreed to step up cooperation, focusing on the following areas: (i) the WTO-APEC Trade Review report; (ii) data and research exchanges; (iii) greater collaboration in the Aid for Trade agenda; and (iv) Communications and Outreach.



II. Accelerating Regional Economic Integration

Several forward-looking initiatives were unveiled during 2009 as APEC sought to advance its core agenda of regional economic integration to the next level. To stay relevant to the new realities of trade, a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to reduce barriers at, behind and across borders was taken.

Accelerating Liberalisation At-the-Border

To liberalise greater trade at the border, a key outcome was the launch of a self-certification of origin pathfinder by seven economies. This initiative will allow traders to self-certify a product's origin in order to claim the preferential tariffs made available by Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Hence, it will help companies more fully realise the benefits of FTAs by cutting the time and costs involved in processing multiple sets of Rules of Origin (ROOs). It could potentially cut processing time from as high as 12 days to just one day, reduce cost from as high as USD22 per shipment to zero, and reduce what is typically a four to five step process to a single step. The participating economies are Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States.

Recognising the growing importance of services trade, APEC Leaders endorsed a new APEC Services Action Plan and APEC Principles for Cross-Border Trade in Services, which lay the ground for APEC to pursue further work in this area.

To ensure that APEC's trade and investment facilitation efforts are properly tracked, the Policy Support Unit was commissioned to assess if the methodologies to measure progress were appropriate. A key finding on the trade facilitation front was that the APEC region is on track to achieve its target of cutting trade transaction costs by a further 5 percent by 2010, with a 3.2 percent cut already realised between 2006 and 2008.

Improving the Ease of Doing Business Behind-the-Border

Another major outcome was a new APEC initiative that aims to make it 25 percent cheaper, faster and easier to do business in the region by 2015, with an interim target of a 5 percent improvement by 2011. The focus is on five priority areas, namely: starting a business; getting credit; enforcing contracts; trading across borders; and dealing with permits. To help APEC economies meet the target, several Champion Economies have stepped forward to build capacity in these five priority areas. They are:

- New Zealand and the United States for starting a business;
- Japan for getting credit;
- Korea for enforcing contracts;
- Hong Kong, China; and Singapore for trading across borders; and
- Singapore for dealing with permits.

These Champion Economies will design practical programmes to equip participating economies with the capabilities to implement reforms and to enable APEC to collectively achieve the targets. The programmes will be carried out in two phases. In the first phase, Champion Economies will share best practices and success stories with participating economies through workshops and seminars. The second phase is a customised action plan to help participating economies implement regulatory reforms. The announced targets will translate into concrete gains for businesses, for example: it will cost on average USD450 less to import and export a container of goods and reduce the time taken to start a business by one week on average.

Making Supply Chains More Efficient Across-the-Border

In 2009 APEC also launched a new Supply Chain Connectivity Initiative (SCI), recognising that gains

come not just from being more open but also from being more connected. The first step taken was the identification of eight critical chokepoints impeding the smooth flow of goods, services and business travellers in the Asia-Pacific. Broadly, they relate to regulatory impediments, customs inefficiencies, and inadequate transport networks.

Going forward, APEC economies will focus on developing measures to address the chokepoints. One early action is the launch of a one-stop web portal in July 2010 that will provide regulatory information on issues affecting door-to-door delivery in all APEC economies. Further actions include enhancing customs clearance efficiency, improving coordination among border agencies, forging greater multi-modal transport linkages, and developing common technical standards such as in logistics safety. To monitor improvements, APEC will also explore possible performance indicators and targets.

III. Positioning for Long-Term Recovery

Looking beyond the crisis, APEC Leaders pledged to steer the Asia-Pacific towards more balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth. This will help APEC economies deal with the challenges attendant with globalisation and climate change in the post-crisis world. APEC Leaders agreed on several concrete actions towards this end.

Balanced Growth

To achieve balanced growth, APEC Leaders agreed that structural reforms are required to gradually unwind global imbalances and to raise the potential output of our economies. Going forward, they agreed to focus on several aspects:

- Ensuring that fiscal, monetary, trade, and structural policies are consistent with a more sustainable and balanced trajectory of growth, both within and across APEC economies;
- Strengthening the environment for private enterprise, investment, and innovation;
- Developing financial markets to better serve the real economy; and

- Working closely with International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks to help achieve these objectives.

Inclusive Growth

A new Inclusive Growth Agenda was launched in 2009, with the goal of broadening access to economic opportunities and strengthening social resilience to help people better adapt to the challenges of globalisation. APEC economies agreed to focus efforts on four main areas, namely:

- **Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME) Development:** To explore policies to increase SMEs' access to global markets and finance;
- **Labour Markets:** To enhance the functioning of labour markets through worker training and skills development;
- **Economic Security:** To focus on models of education to improve productivity and employability in a fast-changing market;
- **Strong Social Safety Nets:** To design social safety nets that provide short-term support during downturns but avoid long-term dependency.

Promoting Sustainable Growth

With the long-term challenge of climate change, APEC Leaders also pledged to ensure that growth will be environmentally sustainable. They agreed on two key strategies. First, to reduce barriers to trade and investment in environmental goods and services. Second, to promote greater collaboration in energy efficiency in the region. The main outcomes include:

- The launch of a new APEC Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) Information Exchange website to promote greater transparency, information sharing and collaboration in the EGS sector (www.egs.apec.org). This will be a useful information tool for policy-makers and

businessmen to keep track of trends and developments in the “green” sector.

- Committing to rationalise and phase out over the medium-term fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services. Progress will be reviewed in 2010.
- Facilitating the diffusion of climate-friendly technologies, including through economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) and capacity building activities.

IV. Strengthening APEC

With APEC turning 20 in 2009, APEC economies agreed on the importance of having a strong APEC Secretariat that would help member economies address new challenges on the horizon.

An important step was the appointment of the APEC Secretariat's first fixed-term Executive Director, Ambassador Muhamad Noor Yacob, who assumed office on January 1, 2010. The objective behind the change from an annual Executive Director appointed by the APEC host economy to a fixed-term appointee is to instil continuity and better position APEC to meet the growing and changing demands of member economies and other stakeholders. Another key outcome was the implementation of a revitalised APEC Communications and Outreach Strategy to better communicate APEC's work and role to its key stakeholders.





At this year's APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, held on 14 - 15 November in Singapore, Leaders issued the 2009 Leaders' Declaration and the APEC Leaders' Statement on A New Growth Paradigm for a Connected Asia-Pacific in the 21st Century.

**17th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting
Singapore, 14 - 15 November 2009**

APEC Leaders' Declaration: Sustaining Growth, Connecting the Region

We, the Leaders of APEC, gathered in Singapore and marked twenty years of cooperation in promoting economic growth and prosperity for our people. In line with new trends and emerging challenges, our agenda has grown in breadth, depth, and complexity. But our common goal remains the same - to support growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, through free and open trade and investment, as embedded in the Bogor Goals.

A year ago, as the world descended into an economic crisis unprecedented in severity since the Great Depression, we resolved that we would aim to overcome the crisis within eighteen months. Today, our robust policy responses have helped to set the stage for recovery. But economic recovery is not yet on a solid footing. Our commitments to reject protectionism and keep our markets open and free have enabled trade to be part of the solution rather than the problem. We will maintain our economic stimulus policies until a durable economic recovery has clearly taken hold.

We will work together to strengthen the momentum towards strong, sustainable and balanced global economic growth, as set out at the recent G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh.

Looking beyond supporting the recovery, we recognise the necessity to develop a new growth paradigm for the changed post-crisis landscape, and an expanded trade and investment agenda that will strengthen regional economic integration (REI) in the Asia-Pacific region. We cannot go back to "growth as usual". We will put in place next year a comprehensive long-term growth strategy that supports more balanced growth within and across economies, achieves greater inclusiveness in our societies, sustains our environment, and which seeks to raise our growth potential through innovation and a knowledge-based economy.

Supporting Balanced Growth

We support the goals of the G-20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. We join in their commitment to:

- Work together to ensure that our macroeconomic, regulatory and structural policies are collectively consistent with more sustainable and balanced trajectories of growth;
- Promote current account sustainability and open trade and investment to advance global prosperity and growth sustainability;
- Undertake macro prudential and regulatory policies to help prevent credit and asset price cycles from becoming forces of destabilisation; and
- Promote development and poverty reduction as part of the rebalancing of global growth.

We look forward to a progress report from Finance Ministers next year on their efforts to achieve stronger, more balanced and sustained growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Structural reform will be critical to strengthening long-term potential output growth and narrowing the development gap between economies, by improving economic flexibility, fostering private demand, and developing financial markets. We agree to re-energise APEC's work on structural reform, building on the Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform towards 2010 (LAISR 2010).

We will leverage APEC's traditional strengths of voluntary cooperation, capacity building, sharing of

best practices, and working with the private sector, to implement necessary reforms in infrastructure development, agriculture/food management, social security, education and workforce training, and regulatory frameworks. We will work with the International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks to facilitate these efforts. Given APEC's diversity, these reforms must take into account individual economies' stage of development, demographic trends, factor and institutional endowments, and comparative advantages.

Fostering Inclusive Growth

We resolve to ensure that future economic growth is more inclusive, to broaden access to opportunities created by growth and to spread the benefits of growth more widely. This will enable our economies to better seize the opportunities created by globalisation and to respond to its challenges. Inclusive growth will strengthen the consensus for free and open trade and investment.

APEC's inclusive growth agenda will build on ongoing efforts on structural reform under LAISR 2010 and will be driven by two key thrusts. First, we will undertake structural adjustments that will enhance opportunities for all segments of our societies to benefit from growth. Emphasis will be placed on the following specific areas:

- We will support and develop our small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which account for more than 90 percent of all businesses in the APEC region and employ between 50 and 80 percent of the workforce. We will assist SMEs to gain better access to global markets, technology and finance as well as to improve their crisis management capabilities.
- We will put job creation at the heart of our economic strategy and enhance cooperation to address the social implications of globalisation. We will facilitate the retraining, skills upgrading and mobility of our workers so that they can secure jobs, especially in new and growing industries.
- We will focus on enhancing women's access to education, training, financing, technology, and infrastructure, to maximise their economic opportunities. We welcome continued outreach to women entrepreneurs to grow the positive multiplier effect that women's economic engagement can have on productivity and sustained growth.

Second, we will strengthen social resilience to help individuals overcome short-term difficulties while providing the incentive for long-term effort, with a focus on the most vulnerable in our economies.

- We will improve outcomes in education and skills-training to enhance long-term economic security.
- We will consider income supplements or earned income tax credits that encourage work and enterprise.
- We will design social safety nets that provide short-term economic security but avoid long-term dependency.

We instruct our Ministers and officials to further advance APEC's inclusive growth agenda in 2010, and develop a multi-year programme to build capacity for structural reforms and SME development, employment creation, and the development of social safety nets.

Promoting Sustainable Growth

We will ensure that economic growth in our region is consistent with sustainable development. Anthropogenic climate change is one of the biggest global challenges. It will impact each of our economies. We welcome the Declaration of the Leaders of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate in L'Aquila and the Leaders' Statement at the G-20 Pittsburgh Summit, and reaffirm our commitment to tackle the threat of climate change and work towards an ambitious outcome in Copenhagen, within the objective, provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will need to be accompanied by measures, including financial assistance and technology transfer to developing economies for their adaptation to the adverse impact of climate change.

We recall our Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development in Sydney in 2007, which set out an APEC-wide aspirational target of reducing energy intensity by at least 25 percent by 2030. We applaud the efforts made by individual APEC economies that have unilaterally undertaken

measures to reduce emissions. Sustainable forest management plays an important role in mitigating global emissions. We will enhance work on meeting the aspirational goal in the Sydney Declaration of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all types of forests by 2020. We support efforts in the UNFCCC negotiations to agree on actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing economies. We recognise the role of the oceans in mitigating climate change, and the impact of climate change on oceans and coastal areas, and welcome the Manado Ocean Declaration.

Responding to climate change through transition to green economies also offers opportunities. We will ensure that efforts to address climate change are consistent with our international trade obligations. A key thrust in APEC's sustainable growth agenda is the APEC Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) Work Programme, under which we will develop and implement a set of concrete actions to support sustainable growth in the region, advance work to increase utilisation and dissemination of EGS, reduce existing barriers and refrain from introducing new barriers to trade and investment in EGS, and enhance capabilities of economies to develop their EGS sectors. We also commit to rationalise and phase out over the medium term fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognising the importance of providing those in need with essential energy services. We will review progress on this at our meeting in 2010. We will also take steps to facilitate the diffusion of climate-friendly technologies, including through economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) and capacity building activities.

We will advance work on sharing best practices in energy efficiency with a view to deploying cleaner and more efficient technologies, and welcome the implementation of the voluntary APEC Peer Review on Energy Efficiency. We recognise the role of renewable energy in reducing emissions and encourage its development in the APEC region. We will encourage publication on a regular basis, timely, accurate, and complete data on oil production, consumption, refining and stock levels as appropriate.



Resisting Protectionism

We firmly reject all forms of protectionism and reaffirm our commitment to keep markets open and refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, and instruct our Ministers to continue to regularly review our adherence to these commitments. These efforts reinforce the WTO's own monitoring mechanism, and act as another bulwark against protectionist pressures by ensuring transparency in the measures taken in response to the crisis.

Supporting the Multilateral Trading System

We strongly reaffirm that the most effective means of dealing with protectionist pressures and delivering a global stimulus package to sustain and secure our recovery is an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in 2010, based on the progress achieved to-date, including with regard to modalities. It is important that the high-level political commitment to concluding the Doha Round translates into substantive progress in the negotiations. We are ready to exercise pragmatism and all possible flexibility and utilise all possible avenues in order to accelerate the pace of negotiations to secure convergence on a final package. We instruct our Ministers to work closely on what needs to be done to bring the DDA to a successful conclusion and to assess the situation no later than in early 2010.

Accelerating Regional Economic Integration

We reaffirm our commitment to the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment. We direct Ministers and officials to report to us next year with a meaningful assessment of the industrialised APEC economies' achievement of the Bogor Goals.

We will continue to explore building blocks towards a possible Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) in the future. An analytical study by officials shows that there are significant economic benefits from an FTAAP, as well as the challenges of establishing such an agreement. We look forward to the progress update from Ministers and officials next year on the outcomes of the exploration of a range of possible pathways to achieve FTAAP.

We will accelerate our work to strengthen REI in the Asia-Pacific, taking a comprehensive approach that focuses our work on trade liberalisation “at the border”; improving the business environment “behind the border”; and enhancing supply chain connectivity “across the border”.

- We instruct officials to intensify our work on initiatives to promote greater convergences among economies in key areas of APEC's REI agenda, including in services, the digital economy, investment, trade facilitation, rules of origin and standards/technical barriers to trade.
- We welcome the participation of Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States in a pathfinder initiative under which economies will agree to practice self-certification of origin with FTA partners. This initiative will facilitate trade by cutting the certification procedure down to a single step and reducing processing time to just one day.
- We endorse the APEC Principles for Cross-Border Trade in Services and the APEC Services Action Plan, which together will provide a foundation for APEC's future work to promote services trade and build greater convergences among APEC economies in their treatment of services.
- We aspire to achieve an APEC-wide improvement of 25 percent in five key areas of doing business by 2015: Starting a Business, Getting Credit,



Enforcing Contracts, Trading Across Borders and Dealing with Permits, and a 5 percent improvement by 2011. We welcome the preparation of capacity building work programmes by champion economies - United States; New Zealand; Japan; Korea; Hong Kong, China; and Singapore - and encourage continuous and concerted efforts through the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan to make it cheaper, faster and easier to do business in the Asia-Pacific.

- We look forward to the progress stock-take in implementing the LAISR forward work programme in 2010, and instruct our Ministers and officials to strategise the next phase of the LAISR, including in the context of supporting our new growth strategies.
- We look towards the successful conclusion of APEC's second Trade Facilitation Action Plan in 2010, and are pleased to note that APEC as a whole is on track to reduce trade transaction costs by an additional 5 percent by 2010.
- We will develop common approaches towards well-functioning public-private partnership (PPP) markets. We encourage officials to explore the feasibility of utilising PPPs for the upgrading of transport infrastructure that contributes to the enhancement of supply chain connectivity in the region.
- We welcome the Supply Chain Connectivity Framework, which has identified eight chokepoints in regional supply chains and suggested actions to address these chokepoints. We welcome the commitment from Transport Ministers to achieve greater seamlessness in our multi-modal transport networks and call for officials to continue cohesive efforts towards improving supply chain connectivity.
- We welcome the work undertaken in identifying performance indicators for the Investment Facilitation Action Plan (IFAP) and look forward to the implementation of the IFAP next year.
- We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen the protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights and reiterated the importance of comprehensive and balanced intellectual property (IP) systems that provide for and protect the incentives that encourage creation and innovation and provide the tools for successful management and exploitation of IP rights. We will continue to promote greater collaboration among our IP rights experts, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), and enforcement authorities across the APEC region and recognise the importance of capacity building. We welcome the progress made by economies in implementing the APEC Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative as well as cooperation to improve patent systems in the region, and look forward to further progress next year.
- We encourage ongoing efforts towards using ICT to address socio-economic issues and realising APEC's goal of achieving universal access to broadband in all member economies by 2015.
- We support the outcomes and recommendations of the APEC Trade Recovery Programme Pilot Exercise. We reaffirm the importance for our economies to implement initiatives, such as communications mechanisms and other approaches to trade recovery, to build trusted relationships and to recognise one another's Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes in alignment with the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards.

Strengthening Economic and Technical Cooperation

Building capacity for reforms aimed at facilitating inclusive growth and REI remains a key priority for APEC. We reaffirm our commitment to the Manila Framework, which serves as the basis for the implementation of the ECOTECH activities outlined in the Osaka Action Agenda. We recognise that capacity building needs evolve as priorities shift to meet new challenges. Therefore, we welcome ongoing efforts to develop a more strategic, goal-oriented and multi-year approach toward capacity building, and to strengthen the prioritisation and effective implementation of capacity building activities across APEC fora. We welcome the establishment of the US\$10 million China APEC Cooperation Fund which aims to facilitate and promote APEC ECOTECH cooperation.

Enhancing Human Security

We express our deepest condolences for the loss of life and destruction caused by the devastating typhoons that hit China, Japan, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Viet Nam, and the earthquakes and the recent terrorist attacks in Indonesia. We reaffirm the importance of enhancing human security and reducing the threat of disruptions to business and trade in sustaining economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. We recognise the importance of building capacity to counter terrorism and welcome APEC's work in areas such as trade security, aviation security, anti-terrorist protection of energy infrastructure, countering terrorism financing, fighting cyber-terrorism, protecting the food supply against terrorist contamination and emergency preparedness.

Responding to food security challenges in the region is a major priority for APEC. Food security, including access to reliable sources of nutritious, safe and affordable food, remains a concern for many in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. We encourage continued cooperation with the private sector, academia, and civil society to address food security and safe food supply challenges, including by promoting sustainable agricultural production and rural development, and instruct officials to undertake capacity building projects and other practical initiatives to address food security, and report back to us next year on their progress. We support the L'Aquila Joint Statement on Global Food Security.

We welcome the sharing of experiences in dealing with the double global impact of the economic crisis

and the Influenza Pandemic (H1N1) in 2009. We reaffirm our commitment to build regional capacity for avian and other potential human influenza pandemics and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. We will strengthen our health systems and cooperate to prevent and control emerging infectious diseases in the world.

Fighting Corruption, Improving Governance and Transparency

Good governance, institutional integrity, and transparency in both the public and private sectors have a critical impact on the smooth flow of trade and economic activities and help to mitigate crime and corruption. We recognise the mutually reinforcing relationship between good governance measures and anti-corruption actions. We welcome the efforts of member economies and ABAC in these areas and encourage public-private partnerships to further APEC efforts to enhance governance, institutional integrity and combat corruption.

We welcome the efforts of ABAC and the business community to enhance governance and encourage economies to work through public-private partnership to further APEC efforts in this area.

We note the importance of international cooperation in combating and dismantling the threat of cross-border criminal networks and its linkages with corruption nodes. We encourage member economies, where applicable, to ratify the UN Convention against Corruption and UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and take measures to implement their provisions, in accordance with economies' legal frameworks.

Strengthening APEC

A revitalised APEC is crucial to meet the challenges of sustaining recovery and to deal with the region's 21st century economic challenges. To do so, APEC economies must forge a partnership of common interests to produce strong, balanced and sustainable growth. The appointment of the Secretariat's first Executive Director for a fixed term is an important first step to strengthen the capacity of the APEC Secretariat to meet the growing demands of member economies and other key stakeholders. We direct our Ministers and officials to accelerate efforts to develop more responsive and effective mechanisms to ensure that APEC remains the premier forum for regional economic cooperation.



17th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting Singapore, 14 - 15 November 2009

APEC Leaders' Statement:

A New Growth Paradigm for a Connected Asia- Pacific in the 21st Century

We, the Leaders of APEC, gathered in Singapore to chart a new growth paradigm for the Asia-Pacific region that meets the needs of the 21st century global economy.

The global economy has begun to recover, with the Asia-Pacific region taking the lead. But we cannot go back to "growth as usual" or "trade as usual". The post-crisis landscape will be different. We need a new growth paradigm. We need a fresh model of economic integration.

We will pursue growth which is balanced, inclusive, and sustainable, supported by innovation and a knowledge-based economy, to ensure a durable recovery that will create jobs and benefit our people.

We will take a more comprehensive approach to regional economic integration, to meet the needs of our businesses and to keep up with new trends in cross-border trade and investment.

We will seek to conclude the Doha Round in 2010 and reject all forms of protectionism.

New Growth Paradigm

We endorse the goals of the G-20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. Representing the economically most dynamic region in the world and accounting for half of global trade and output, APEC is well placed to provide the momentum necessary to achieve these goals.

Balanced Growth. Strong and sustained economic growth will require structural reforms to gradually unwind global imbalances and raise the potential output of our economies.

We will ensure that our fiscal, monetary, trade, and structural policies are consistent with a more sustainable and balanced trajectory of growth, both within and across our economies.

We will strengthen the environment for private enterprise, investment, and innovation.

We will develop our financial markets to better serve the real economy.

We will work closely with International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks to help achieve these objectives.

Inclusive Growth. To achieve inclusive growth, we must broaden access to economic opportunities and build the resilience of the most vulnerable against economic shocks. Inclusive growth will strengthen the consensus for free trade and open markets, which are key for continued prosperity.

We will help small and medium enterprises and women entrepreneurs gain better access to global markets and finance.

We will facilitate worker retraining, skills upgrading, and domestic labour mobility.

We will invest in education as a basis for enhancing individuals' ability to secure good jobs.

We will design social safety nets that provide short-term support but avoid long-term dependency.

Sustainable Growth. Future growth must be compatible with global efforts to protect the environment and mitigate climate change. At the same time, efforts to address climate change must be consistent with our international trade obligations.

We welcome the Declaration of the Leaders of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate in L'Aquila and the Leaders' Statement at the G-20 Pittsburgh Summit, and reaffirm our commitment to tackle the threat of climate change and work towards an ambitious outcome in Copenhagen, within the objective, provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We will explore ways to reduce barriers to trade and investment in environmental goods and services (EGS) and will refrain from introducing new barriers to trade in EGS.

We will rationalise and phase out over the medium-term fossil fuel subsidies while providing those in need with essential energy services.

We will share best practices in energy efficiency, deploy cleaner and more energy-efficient technologies, and welcome the APEC Peer Review on Energy Efficiency.

A Connected Asia-Pacific in the 21st Century

We will take a comprehensive approach to build a 21st century model of economic integration that will combine trade liberalisation "*at the border*", improve the business environment "*behind the border*", and enhance supply chain connectivity "*across the border*".

"At the Border" Liberalisation. We will continue to explore building blocks towards a possible Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific in the future.

We launched a pathfinder initiative led by Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States to practice self-certification of origin so that businesses can better take advantage of free trade agreements in the region.

We will take forward the APEC Services Initiative having agreed to an action plan as well as principles to promote cross-border trade in services.

"Behind the Border" Structural Reforms. A key component of our structural reform efforts to reduce regulatory impediments is the Ease of Doing Business Action Plan.

We will strive to achieve by 2015 a collective 25 percent reduction in the cost, time, and number of procedures that our businesses face when starting a business, getting credit, enforcing contracts, dealing with permits, and trading across borders.

We will reduce business transaction costs by 5 percent by 2010, having already achieved a cost reduction of 3.2 percent between 2006 and 2008 through the Trade Facilitation Action Plan II.

"Across the Border" Connectivity. APEC's Supply Chain Connectivity Initiative has identified eight key chokepoints in regional supply chains and actions to address them.

We will explore how to enhance multi-modal connectivity by air, sea, and land, to facilitate a more seamless flow of goods and services, and business travellers throughout the Asia-Pacific.





JAPAN 2010

Change and Action

The economic landscape of the Asia-Pacific region has changed substantially since 1989 when APEC was established in the midst of rapid regional growth brought about by the expansion of international trade. The region has since experienced: increased globalisation accelerated by advances in information and communication technologies; greater and faster movement of people, goods and money; and the emergence of new challenges in areas such as the environment and energy, food and natural resources.

Most recently in 2009, the world economy experienced the worst recession since the Great Depression. We are observing signs of economic recovery, but the outlook is still uncertain and significant risks remain. APEC therefore needs to reconsolidate its relevance as an effective framework to address the challenges of the new economic landscape.



Change And Action

The theme for APEC Japan 2010 is “Change and Action”: APEC 2010 will envision the necessary “changes” and put them into concrete “actions.”

In 2010 APEC will work on formulating a “new vision” for further growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region based on the following agenda.

A New Vision For APEC

Regional Economic Integration (REI)

In the Bogor Declaration of 1994, APEC members committed to free and open trade and investment in the region by 2010 for industrialised economies and by 2020 for developing economies. These 'Bogor Goals' have since been the guiding principle of APEC's work. This year, APEC will assess progress on the 2010 deadline.

APEC will also intensify its work on REI. Liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment has been the key engine of development in the region and its importance to APEC remains unchanged. As instructed by APEC Leaders and Ministers, APEC will explore, in particular, a range of possible pathways towards a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). Further study will also be done on specific areas of APEC's REI agenda including in services, the digital economy, investment, rules of origin, standards/technical barriers to trade, and environmental goods and services. APEC will also continue to enhance regional connectivity and promote trade facilitation.

Growth Strategy

APEC will formulate a growth strategy for the Asia-Pacific region which supports more balanced growth

within and across economies, achieves greater inclusiveness in our societies, addresses the challenges of environmental and energy sustainability, and seeks to raise our growth potential through innovation and a knowledge-based economy.

Balanced growth aims to gradually unwind global imbalances and raise the potential output of APEC member economies. Inclusive growth strives to broaden access to economic opportunities and build the resilience of the most vulnerable against economic shocks. Sustainable growth seeks to ensure that future growth is environmentally sustainable and to build a “green” economy in the Asia-Pacific region. Knowledge-based growth aspires to create an innovative environment and promote the development and utilisation of technology and services in order to improve the business environment and upgrade industrial structures in the region.

Human Security

APEC's human security agenda will be augmented to help sustain growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific. Food security has been identified as a vital issue for the development of the region and APEC's first Ministerial Meeting on Food Security will be held in October. Other agenda items will include infectious diseases, counter terrorism, anti-corruption, and disaster preparedness.

Economic and Technical Cooperation

Economic and technical cooperation (ECOTECH) will be critical to building members' capacity to support and implement the necessary “actions” and to advance APEC's new vision for achieving growth and prosperity. Accordingly, APEC will intensify its work to strengthen the effectiveness of its ECOTECH activities.



Key Meetings in 2010

Meeting	Date
Senior Officials' Meeting 1 (SOM1) and related meetings	22 Feb - 07 Mar
Senior Officials' Meeting 2 (SOM2) and related meetings	24 May - 04 Jun
Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT)	05 - 06 Jun
Energy Ministerial Meeting	19 - 20 Jun
Senior Officials' Meeting 3 (SOM3) and related meetings	15 - 26 Sep
Tourism Ministerial Meeting	22 - 23 Sep
Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Ministerial Meeting	02 - 03 Oct
APEC Oceans-related Ministerial Meeting	11 - 12 Oct
Ministerial Meeting on Food Security	16 - 17 Oct
Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry	30 - 31 Oct
Finance Ministers' Meeting	06 Nov
Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM)	07 - 08 Nov
22nd APEC Ministerial Meeting	10 - 11 Nov
APEC SME Summit	11 Nov
APEC CEO Summit	12 - 13 Nov
18th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting	13 - 14 Nov

Scheduled meetings of Leaders, Ministers and Senior Officials in 2010 can be found at www.apec.org

APEC Milestones

2008 • Lima, Peru

APEC Economic Leaders address the global financial crisis in the Lima Statement on the Global Economy, in which they commit to take all necessary economic and financial measures to restore stability and growth, to reject protectionism and to intensify efforts to advance the WTO's Doha Development Agenda negotiations. APEC focuses on the social dimensions of trade, reducing the gap between developing and developed members and Corporate Social Responsibility. Leaders welcome the APEC Investment Facilitation Action Plan aimed at improving the investment environment in the region.

2007 • Sydney, Australia

For the first time, APEC member economies issue a Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development outlining future action in support of a new international climate change arrangement and announcing a forward program of practical, cooperative actions and initiatives. Leaders also adopt a major report on closer regional economic integration, including structural reform initiatives, and welcome the second APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan which aims to reduce trade transaction costs by a further five per cent by 2010.

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. Leaders conclude that the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan has achieved its target of a five percent reduction in trade transaction costs in the region between 2002 and 2006. APEC takes a strategic approach to reform fora and strengthen the Secretariat.

2005 • Busan, Korea

APEC completes the Mid-Term Stock-take of Progress Towards the Bogor Goals. The stock-take finds that average tariffs in the APEC region have been reduced to 5.5 percent, down from 16.9 percent when APEC was established in 1989, and that APEC is on schedule to meet the Bogor Goals. It also outlines the Busan Roadmap to the Bogor Goals. The APEC Privacy Framework is launched.

2004 • Santiago, Chile

APEC adopts Best Practices for RTAs and FTAs, a reference guide for APEC members undertaking RTA/FTA negotiations. The Leaders' Agenda to Implement Structural Reform (LAISR) is launched. It addresses five priority areas: regulatory reform; corporate governance; public governance; competition policy; and strengthening economic legal infrastructure. Leaders endorse the Santiago Commitment To Fight Corruption And Ensure Transparency.

2003 • Bangkok, Thailand

Members undertake to implement the APEC Action Plan on SARS and the Health Security Initiative to help the region prevent and respond to health threats. Leaders pledge to strengthen regional efforts to promote sound and efficient financial systems and encourage the development of domestic and regional bond markets.

2002 • Los Cabos, Mexico

APEC adopts a Trade Facilitation Action Plan and the Statement to Implement APEC Policies on Trade and the Digital Economy. The Secure Trade in the APEC Region (STAR) initiative is launched and a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards is endorsed.

2001 • Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Leaders issue APEC's first Statement on Counter-Terrorism and pledge to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation. Leaders also adopt the Shanghai Accord which focuses on: broadening the APEC vision to reflect the changes wrought by the digital economy; clarifying the roadmap to reach the Bogor Goals; and strengthening the IAP Peer Review Process and capacity building activities.. An e-APEC Strategy identifying the necessary policy environment and specifying appropriate goals and actions to maximise the benefits of the digital economy is also endorsed.

2000 • Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

APEC commits to the Action Agenda for the New Economy. Leaders set the goals of tripling internet access throughout the APEC region by 2005, and achieving universal access by 2010.

1999 • Auckland, New Zealand

APEC Leaders endorse the APEC Principles to Enhance Competition and Regulatory Reform aimed at addressing the structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the Asian financial crisis. APEC commits to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and 2010 in developing economies. The 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 are endorsed.

1998 • Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

APEC Ministers agree on a Blueprint for Action on Electronic Commerce, including a commitment to paperless trading by 2005 in developed economies and by 2010 in developing economies.

1997 • Vancouver, Canada

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

1996 • Manila, The Philippines

The Manila Action Plan for APEC is adopted, outlining the trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation measures required to reach the Bogor Goals. 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 which provides a framework for meeting the Bogor Goals through trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation and sectoral activities, underpinned by policy dialogues and economic and technical cooperation. The APEC Business Advisory Council is established to inject a business perspective into APEC deliberations and to give advice on business sector priorities.

1994 • Bogor, Indonesia

APEC sets the Bogor Goals of, "free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialised economies and 2020 for developing economies." The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations conducted under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is concluded. APEC is widely considered to have been a significant force in bring the Round to a conclusion.

1993 • Blake Island, United States

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

1989 • Canberra, Australia

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

About APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was established to take advantage of the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies, to facilitate economic growth for all participants and to enhance a sense of community. It aims to improve regional trade and economic performance and linkages 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 percent between 2002 and 2006 and are scheduled to be cut by a further 5 percent by the end of 2010. APEC has worked to create an environment to ensure the safe and efficient movement of goods, services and people across borders through policy decisions and economic and technical cooperation. During this period, APEC member economies have grown, and developing economies in particular have experienced substantial increases in GDP and standards of living.

ECONOMIC DATA

Member Economy and Year Joined	Area ('000 sq km)	Population (million)	GDP (US\$bn)	GDP per capita (US\$)	Exports* (US\$m)	Imports* (US\$m)
Australia (1989)	7,692	22.0	1,013.10	46,806	231,673	239,118
Brunei Darussalam (1989)	6	0.4	14.6	37,053	9,487	2,654
Canada (1989)	9,971	33.6	1,499.60	45,085	523,114	496,168
Chile (1994)	757	17.0	169.5	10,117	80,335	67,875
China (1991)	9,561	1334.3	4,327.40	3,259	1,575,981	1,290,393
Hong Kong, China (1991)	1	7.1	215.4	30,726	462,972	439,292
Indonesia (1989)	1,905	231.5	511.8	2,239	152,193	157,381
Japan (1989)	378	127.6	4,910.70	38,457	930,992	931,423
Korea, Republic of (1989)	99	48.7	929.1	19,136	497,997	527,999
Malaysia (1989)	330	27.8	221.6	8,118	230,049	187,327
Mexico (1993)	1,958	107.8	1,088.10	10,200	311,145	334,085
New Zealand (1989)	271	4.3	128.4	30,030	39,540	41,935
Papua New Guinea (1993)	463	6.3	8.1	1,306	8,811	3,394
Peru (1998)	1,285	29.1	127.5	4,448	34,798	43,267
Philippines (1989)	300	92.2	166.9	1,845	59,219	65,402
Russian Federation (1998)	17,098	141.4	1,676.60	11,807	519,301	343,407
Singapore (1989)	1	4.8	181.9	38,972	421,223	398,852
Chinese Taipei (1991)	36	23.2	391.4	16,988	278,003	274,791
Thailand (1989)	513	67.1	273.3	4,116	211,566	227,127
United States (1989)	9,364	307.2	14,441.40	47,440	1,833,022	2,508,901
Viet Nam (1998)	332	87.2	89.8	1,042	66,557	91,101

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

Exports and Imports
 Source: *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia. The APEC Region Trade and Investment 2009*

APEC Process

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 the APEC Secretariat which is 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 developed 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 Liberalisation - 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.

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 terrorist attacks, regional epidemics and devastating natural disasters reinforces the nexus between trade and human security. APEC is meeting these new challenges through cooperative activities aimed at ensuring that trade and economic development continues, while safeguarding the people and economies of the region.

Action Plans

Osaka Action Agenda

The Osaka Action Agenda mapped out a path to meet the Bogor Goals. It provides a framework through a mix of individual and collective steps in liberalisation, facilitation and economic-technical cooperation. As part of this framework, General Principles have been defined for member economies as they proceed through the APEC liberalisation 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 fulfil 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:

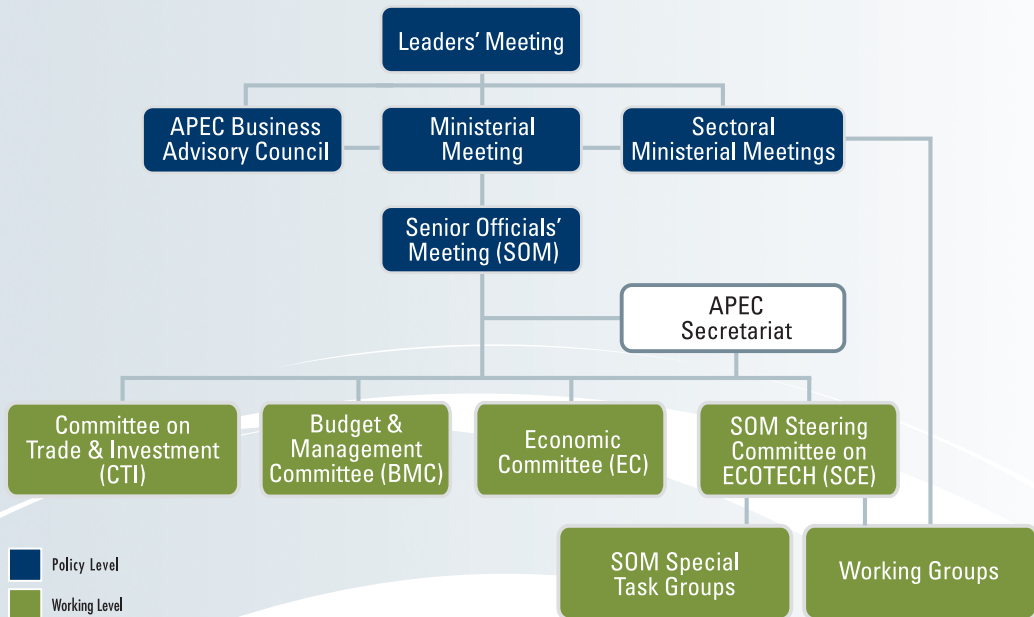
- Tariffs and Competition Policy
- Non-tariff measures
- Government Procurement
- Services
- Deregulation/Regulatory Review
- Investment
- WTO Obligations (including Rules of Origin)
- Standards and Conformance
- Dispute Mediation
- Customs Procedures
- Mobility of Business People
- Intellectual Property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

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 broader 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 Organisational Chart



■ Policy Level
■ Working Level

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 Centres Consortium.

The APEC Secretariat

The APEC Secretariat is staffed with a team of diplomats seconded from APEC member economies as well as by professional, specialist and administrative staff. The Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director.



The APEC Secretariat holds ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Certification. This recognises 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.



The APEC Policy Support Unit

In 2008, the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) was established to provide research, analysis and evaluation capabilities to assist in the implementation of APEC's agenda. The PSU is guided and overseen by a Board that comprises representatives from the current, immediate past and next APEC host economy, and from each major donor.

APEC Stakeholder Participation

APEC recognises 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 recognise that business drives the economies of the region and therefore 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 Centres (ASC) Consortium, APEC member economies actively engage academic and research institutions in the APEC process. 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 20 APEC member economies.

On The Web

The APEC Secretariat - www.apec.org contains information about APEC developments, issues and work programs, an APEC event calendar and links to key APEC websites.

Publications

publications.apec.org

Key APEC Documents 2009

A reference set of the key policy decisions and initiatives endorsed by Leaders and Ministers in 2009. It includes the 2009 APEC Leaders' Declaration and Statements from Ministerial Meetings.

2009 APEC Economic Policy Report

With a focus on regulatory reform this report reviews individual economies' domestic regulatory reforms and identifies key priorities and challenges for future years.

2009 Annual Report to Ministers - APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI)

The report contains an overview of the CTI's work on trade and investment liberalisation and regional economic integration in 2009, and provides a series of recommendations to advance the Committee's continued work program.

2009 APEC SOM Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation (ECOTECH)

The Committee's key achievements, including the development of a framework to guide ECOTECH activities, are outlined. The report also highlights some of the projects undertaken by APEC fora in 2009 to advance ECOTECH and the outcomes achieved by various APEC working groups and task forces.

Ordering Publications

APEC publications can be downloaded free of charge or hard copy publications can be purchased from APEC. Please visit the APEC Secretariat Publications Database, publications.apec.org to order.

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