

study on Trade Facilitation and organized a capacity-building workshop on trade facilitation with Thailand and Hong Kong, China. As a co-chair of the APEC Group on Capacity Building, which coordinates all of APEC's work in this area, Canada has developed a Web-based directory of all WTO capacity-building projects offered within APEC. Furthermore, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will soon start to implement its \$9-million APEC economic integration program, which will provide WTO capacity building assistance throughout Southeast Asia.

### **APEC Results in 2002**

- ❑ Adoption of a new Statement on Counter-Terrorism and launch of the Secure Trade in the APEC Region initiative, which focused on transportation security.
- ❑ Adoption of a Trade Facilitation Action Plan that will cut business transaction costs by 5% over five years.
- ❑ Expression of strong support by APEC leaders for more progress in the Doha Round of WTO negotiations.
- ❑ Adoption of a Statement to Implement APEC Transparency Standards on administrative transparency, which will improve market access throughout the region.
- ❑ Publication of a major report by the World Bank on the economic benefits of trade facilitation in APEC.
- ❑ Implementation of a new format for peer review of APEC individual action plans (IAPs), which will involve outside expertise and greater business participation.
- ❑ Implementation of a wide range of capacity-building projects on trade policy.
- ❑ Organization of an APEC "Dialogue on Globalization and Shared Prosperity."
- ❑ Organization of a high-level meeting on micro-enterprises, which led to the creation of a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) subgroup specifically focused on issues relevant to micro-enterprises.
- ❑ Implementation of the E-APEC Strategy, through the organization of a wide range of workshops, seminars and training programs on issues related to bridging the "digital divide."
- ❑ Approval by leaders of a new Life Sciences Forum, which will provide an opportunity for the pharmaceutical industry to interact with governments in the APEC region.
- ❑ Adoption by ministers of revised guidelines on non-member participation, which will make it easier for APEC forums to interact with outside organizations.
- ❑ Creation of a Gender Focal Point Network to ensure that APEC forums implement the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC Activities.
- ❑ Adoption by leaders of the Shanghai Accord, which will accelerate movement toward achieving the Bogor Goals.

Thailand, which will host APEC in 2003, is expected to emphasize APEC's work on economic and technical cooperation, with a focus on human resources development and the development of adequate social safety nets throughout the region. During 2003, one of Canada's major objectives will be to implement the APEC Leaders' Statement on Counter-Terrorism and the STAR initiative. Canada will also continue to implement the Trade Facilitation Action Plan, consistent with the direction provided by the Shanghai Accord, and aiming to expand opportunities for Canadian businesses in the region. In addition, Canada will play a major role in APEC's WTO capacity building initiative and will continue to support APEC's work on "new economy" issues. Canada will also promote public engagement in APEC, including dialogues with non-governmental organizations, in order to build popular support for the economic reforms needed to sustain regional growth and prosperity. Finally, Canada's IAP is up for review in 2003 along with those of Australia and Thailand.

### **Biotechnology Initiatives Within APEC**

Within APEC, Canada is active in two biotechnology initiatives. Under the Agricultural Technical Cooperation Working Group, Canada shepherds the Research, Development and Extension of Agricultural Biotechnology (RDEAB) Subgroup. This group provides a unique forum for member economies to identify and address common issues in agricultural biotechnology. The RDEAB Subgroup is mandated to carry out agricultural biotechnology work in four areas: