

- the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, business and the academic world in the development of a regional consultative process must be considered;
- the consultative process should be open, taking account of the sensitivities of governments and existing organizations, and be based on a consensual approach;
- there is a need to develop new arrangements for regular high level consultations in the Asia Pacific region, to promote greater economic growth, to assist developing countries, and to ensure broadly based trade expansion in the region.

"I welcome the search for new links in the region," Mr. Crosbie said. "It reflects the changing dynamics of international trade in an increasingly interdependent world. It also reflects a growing awareness of the remarkable economic vitality of the region and its immense potential for even more rapid expansion. I welcome proposals that would contribute to the development of an arrangement for strengthening trade and economic cooperation in the Pacific and we look forward to participating in the process leading to that goal."

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