

In those and other organizations Canada and Indonesia share a commitment to increased trade and investment liberalization. As members of the World Trade Organization, we support multilateral trade and investment rule making. As export oriented economies dependent on an open trading system, we both seek to reinforce the international commitment to increased market liberalization, improved access for our products and services, and co-operation in trade and investment facilitation.

Last week I was the host of a meeting in Vancouver that brought together 10 trade ministers from some of the leading middle-sized countries of the WTO. Indonesian Trade Minister Joedono participated actively in the meeting. The meeting marked a first step in laying the groundwork for the first WTO Ministerial Conference to take place in Singapore in December 1996.

The Vancouver meeting followed closely the successful APEC Ministerial and Leaders' meetings that took place in Osaka last month. At the meeting we were able to reconfirm our commitment to the vision articulated by APEC leaders in Bogor one year earlier, committing member economies to free trade in the Asia-Pacific region by 2010 and 2020.

In Osaka, we adopted an "Action Agenda." The Agenda reflects the Asian preference for a consensus-based process or soft negotiations. It has two main elements - a set of principles to guide us in achieving the Bogor vision and a method by which members actually pursue free trade in the region.

As a first step, each APEC member will develop individual liberalization packages, which will be reviewed by other members over the next year and announced at the next APEC Leaders' and Ministerial meetings in Manila in 1996. Implementation is to begin January 1, 1997.

Additionally, in Osaka, we established the APEC Business Advisory Council as a permanent body that will ensure continued private sector involvement in APEC.

The business community has been the main driving force behind the push for trade and economic liberalization throughout the APEC region, including Indonesia. We must also ensure that, at a very practical level, business people respond effectively to the myriad of new market opportunities available in Southeast Asia and North America.

Your Business Council, as the bilateral business group that represents the growing economic partnership between Canada and Indonesia, can play an important role in this regard by providing an essential link between our business people. You can also bring home the good news about Indonesia's ongoing privatization program, recent economic reform measures, and the removal of