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MACLAREN MEETS TRADE MINISTERS OF ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FORUM

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will join trade ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum in Jakarta on October 5 and 6 to review progress on major trade initiatives affecting the region.

Mr. MacLaren will also hold bilateral talks with the Indonesian Minister of Trade, Satrio B. Joedono, and Minister of Energy, Ida Bagus Sudjana, to promote greater trade and investment between Canada and Indonesia.

The APEC ministers will review progress toward the effective and full implementation of the Uruguay Round world trade liberalization agreements signed last April in Marrakech, Morocco. "We must begin the early implementation of the Uruguay Round to ensure that the world and the APEC region are not kept waiting for the many benefits of our hard-won achievements," Mr. MacLaren said.

The APEC trade ministers will also exchange views about further trade liberalization, both within the Asia-Pacific region and worldwide, and will discuss their efforts to facilitate further trade and investment among APEC countries. The meeting will help set the agenda for the APEC leaders' meeting to be held in Jakarta in mid-November.

"Our meeting and the APEC leaders' meeting in November provide unique opportunities to push our regional trade agenda forward," Mr. MacLaren said. "Canada is prepared to proceed boldly but sensibly, building on the results of the Uruguay Round."

During his meetings with the Indonesian ministers, Mr. MacLaren will emphasize Indonesia's importance to Canada as a trade and investment partner. Indonesia is Canada's largest trading partner among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Canada's exports to Indonesia totalled \$443 million in 1993, while imports were valued at \$440 million. Canadian direct investment in Indonesia totals about \$3.5 billion.