

Vancouver the Venue for 1997 APEC Summit

The first ever Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit to be hosted by Canada will be held in Vancouver in 1997.

"Vancouver and British Columbia are Canada's gateway to the huge Pacific market," said Secretary of State (Asia Pacific) Raymond Chan on making the announcement at the 1995 APEC Summit in Osaka, Japan. "They have been the engine behind Canada's new focus on this dynamic region."

As chair, Canada will host a number of APEC events, including the Leader's meeting, Ministerial meetings and a series of lead-up meetings involving senior officials in the private sector. Some 3,000 delegates and 2,000 media representatives normally visit the host city during these major events.

"This will clearly generate significant economic benefits for the entire city," said Mr. Chan. "It will put Vancouver on the map as

the gateway to the Asia Pacific region and its fast-growing markets."

BC Premier Mike Harcourt said: "...The steps which lead to the Summit meeting and the meeting itself will stimulate direct economic activity. With all the potential in mind, I have asked BC Trade to begin immediately to bring together the province's team that will work with Canada to make every aspect of APEC'97 a success."

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of the Canadian private sector at all levels of APEC activity, especially in the 10 working groups and symposia where useful technical exchanges and new relationships can result.

Over the past three years, APEC has benefitted from private sector insights and advice from two prominent bodies – the APEC Eminent Persons Group (where Canada was represented by John S. MacDonald of MacDonald Dettwiler) and the Pacific Business Forum (where Canada has been represented by the President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Tim Reid). Input from these groups was particularly critical in helping governments find the political will to agree to the vision of regional free and open trade and investment set out in the Bogor Declaration. This year, at the Osaka APEC meetings, it was decided that such an advisory capability should be made permanent and the decision was taken to form an APEC Business Advisory Council with up to three representatives per member. APEC also seeks to integrate private sector know-how and views at the working level.

APEC has 10 sectoral working groups which often directly involve business participants or advisors. These groups cover: Fisheries; Human Resources Development; Industrial Science and Technology; Resources Conservation; Energy Cooperation; Telecommunications; Trade and Investment Data; Trade Promotion; Transportation; and Tourism. In addition, there are ad hoc experts groups covering small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and agricultural technology. These working groups contribute towards economic and technical development, for example, through technology transfer and solutions for regional economic infrastructure.

A Public/Private Sector Dialogue on Infrastructure was held in Indonesia in September, providing significant opportunities for interested private sector participation. In recent months, Canadian private sector members have joined Canadian delegates to the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Small and Medium Enterprises and to the APEC Investment Symposium in Bangkok.

FIDAE FAX

The correct Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa) fax number for information on the **International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE)** being held March 10-17, 1996 in Santiago, Chile is (613) 944-0479.

CANADIAN CONSULATE OPENS IN NICE

Canada officially opened an Honorary Consulate in Nice, southern France, last month. It is located at 64 av. Jean Médecin, 06000 Nice. Tel.: 93-92-93-22. Fax : 93-92-55-51. The Honorary Consul, Michèle Felizzola, as President of a travel agency, can offer Canadian business people excellent rates on their business trips throughout the Riviera. She can also be reached in the afternoon. Tel.: 93-13-08-13. Fax : 93-13-95-05.