

technical co-operation, and small and medium enterprises. The working groups promote practical co-operation among members to build capacity in areas such as transportation, fisheries, energy, trade promotion, telecommunications and human resources development.

To support APEC's activities, a permanent secretariat was established in Singapore in 1993. Its staff of 40 professionals, seconded by members, provides direct administrative and co-ordination support for all APEC forums. It also administers the APEC central fund, which supports projects initiated by ministers and leaders.

The executive director of the secretariat, who is seconded from the host member, serves for one year. The deputy executive director is appointed by the economy designated to assume the responsibility for hosting during the following year.

In 1995, APEC leaders created the APEC Business Advisory Council in order to have a direct channel for advice. In 1998, Canada is represented by the vice-chair and two other members.