

APEC provides its members with a valuable infrastructure through which senior officials, ministers and leaders consult regularly on managing the diverse challenges presented by globalization and the changing face of international trade.

## Why is APEC important to Canada?

Involvement in APEC is a means to stimulate both the economic and the social development of the region, which contributes to a more dynamic environment at home. Many of APEC's achievements make it easier for Canadians to do business in the Asia-Pacific region.

APEC is a critical regional vehicle for Canada to pursue its national interests in the Asia-Pacific region. It gives Canada some insight into the economic and social policy decision-making processes of our Asia-Pacific



partners, bringing together ministers and leaders from across the region, and enables us to solidify bilateral relations with our key Asia-Pacific partners. Canada has pursued this broader goal through the promotion of trade liberalization and facilitation initiatives within the APEC forum, while working on specific projects in the fields of customs, standards and regulatory measures that can all help to sustain economic growth and development in the region. Participation in APEC helps us expand opportunities for Canadian business in the region.

APEC is not a regional trade agreement but rather a key forum for promoting liberal trade values in one of the world's largest economic zones. This helps to generate political momentum for further regional and multilateral trade liberalization.

The cornerstone of Canada's trade policy is the World Trade Organization (WTO). APEC has an important role to play in supporting the WTO and promoting further global trade liberalization by helping lay the groundwork for successful international trade talks by building relationships among the trade officials of key economies. In some areas APEC agreements have served as models for the WTO, or as a basis for global consensus on emerging trade issues.

