

co-operation, small and medium enterprises, and environment and sustainable development. 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 provides direct administrative and co-ordination support for all APEC forums. It also administers the APEC central fund, which supports projects approved by ministers and leaders.

In 1995, APEC leaders created the APEC Business Advisory Council in order to have a direct channel for advice. Canada has three representatives on this council. The council meets annually with leaders to discuss its recommendations.