

In Manila, leaders also endorsed the Ministerial Framework for Economic Co-operation and Development, which outlined six priorities for APEC's economic and technical co-operation agenda: developing human resources through training, education and skills development; fostering safe and efficient capital markets; strengthening economic infrastructure; harnessing technologies of the future; promoting environmentally sound growth; and encouraging the growth of small and medium enterprises. Leaders also directed that APEC's activities have a greater focus on people-to-people links, including women, academics, small business and youth.

The fifth APEC economic leaders' meeting was held in Vancouver in 1997. Leaders called for a vision for the 21st century that would connect the APEC community through infrastructure, electronic commerce, science and technology, sustainable development, climate change and emergency preparedness. As well, people of Asia-Pacific would be connected through APEC's dialogue with all sectors of society. Leaders endorsed the Vancouver Framework for Enhanced Public-Private Partnership for Infrastructure Development.

APEC leaders also agreed in Vancouver to accelerate trade liberalization in 15 sectors: energy, environmental goods and services, fish and fish products, forest products, medical equipment and instruments, toys, gems and jewelry, chemicals, telecommunications, rubber, fertilizers, automotive, food, oil seeds, and civil aircraft.

The sixth APEC economic leaders' meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1998, focused on reaffirming confidence in the strong economic fundamentals and prospects for recovery in the region following the Asian financial crisis. Leaders agreed to a co-operative growth strategy to address the financial crisis. They pledged efforts to strengthen social safety nets, financial systems, trade and investment flows, the scientific and technological base, the development of human resources, the economic infrastructure, and business and commercial links.

The seventh APEC economic leaders' meeting was held in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1999. The leaders recommended strengthening the international financial architecture and its supervision domestically and agreed to support a new round of World Trade Organization discussions. The leaders also endorsed the Principles to Enhance Competition Policy and Regulatory Reform and adopted the Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC. They called for a strengthening of the work being done on trade facilitation.

The eighth APEC economic leaders' meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, in 2000. Its four themes were managing globalization, creating new opportunities, strengthening the multilateral trading system, and making APEC matter more. Leaders adopted ambitious "connectedness" objectives, to enable