

the table their first round of actions to eliminate regional impediments to trade and investment. Members have committed themselves to developing detailed work programs focused on trade liberalization, trade facilitation, and economic and technical co-operation. These efforts are guided by two policy committees, the Committee on Trade and Investment and the Economic Committee, which advise APEC Senior Officials on key trends affecting growth in the region.

Encouraging and facilitating business in the region is APEC's central goal, because it is through the private sector that capital is mobilized, investments are made, and jobs are created. For this reason, APEC Leaders in November 1995 established the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), a high-level permanent forum for channeling private-sector advice directly to Ministers and Leaders. The ABAC will play an important role in ensuring that APEC remains centred on the aspirations and interests of the private sector, to help ensure prosperity for Canadians and all people in the region.

A Canadian priority is to ensure that business insights are factored into all of APEC's activities. This is particularly the case with regard to APEC's 10 working groups, which co-operate to address the economic interests of APEC members. Many Canadian firms are already active in a number of these working groups. They help to structure work programs and participate in meetings and seminars. Others are encouraged to learn more about APEC activities and to become actively involved in setting the Canadian agenda.

The 10 working groups, together with a brief description and federal government contacts, are:

- **Transportation:** to create an efficient, safe and integrated regional transportation system by streamlining procedures and reducing institutional barriers that cause congestion at land, air and marine entry points. Contact: Transport Canada, Pacific Region Policy Coordination, Fax 604-666-7255

Canada's commitment to lead the APEC transportation safety and security initiative offers an opportunity to Canadian suppliers to showcase their technology to APEC members.

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