

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):



Connecting Canada and the Asia-Pacific Region

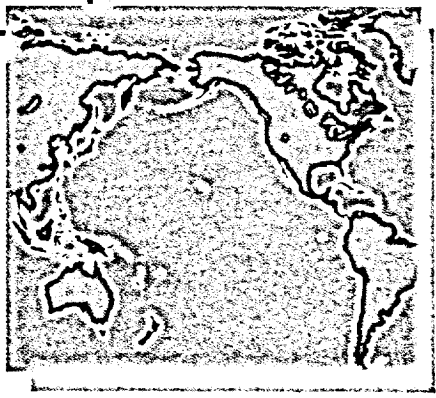
What is APEC?

APEC comprises 21 member economies, all of which are situated along the Asia-Pacific rim. Together, member economies account for 55 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP) and for 47 percent of world

trade, making it the most important forum in the Asia-Pacific region. Canada has been a member of APEC since it was founded in 1989.

APEC member economies: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; the People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; South Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Vietnam.

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Since its inception, APEC has become the main forum in the Asia-Pacific region for promoting trade and investment liberalization and for cooperation for economic growth and development. Although primarily an economic forum, the range of issues discussed within APEC has grown in both depth and scope, recognizing the interdependence between political and trade concerns. APEC's agenda now includes trade liberalization, business facilitation, counter-terrorism, and economic and technical cooperation.