

in Canada are increasingly attempting to align human resource demand and supply with the needs of the economy.

Canada's particular interest within the HRD Working Group is the establishment of specialized networks to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise among the leading human resource institutions within our region. We urge all members to participate as actively as possible in these networks to maximize their effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman, HRD is a crucial element in the economic development and integration of the Asia-Pacific region, as reflected in the broad support that this group has received from all APEC members. It is also a key component of Canada's co-operative activities since human resources development is one of the key preconditions for sustainable development.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, Canada wishes to congratulate the United States for its highly successful meeting of APEC Education Ministers in Washington in early August. We understand that this meeting generated a very useful exchange of views on educational standards and the importance of education in economic development. We hope that the "Education Forum" proposed at this meeting is soon created, under the auspices of the HRD Group, to pursue follow-up work. The effectiveness of this Forum, and the activities of the HRD Group as a whole, would be enhanced by the full engagement of all members.

Thank you.